



THE INDEPENDENT

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(1850p) 45p



**Shelley Fox:
fashion's next
big thing** FRONT



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attitude? Meet
The Cardigans** PAGE 11

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

**FREE
MAGAZINE**

FOR EVERY READER
COLLECT THREE TOKENS

SEE PAGE 16



We were misled, say parents of babies who died in experiment

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

PARENTS WHOSE babies died or were injured while undergoing an experimental treatment at an NHS trust hospital claimed yesterday that they had been misled into signing research consent forms for their children.

The families decided to speak out after *The Independent* revealed that the Health minister Baroness Hayman has ordered an inquiry into the conduct of research at the North Staffordshire NHS Trust in response to concerns about a trial of a new type of ventilator to help the babies breathe. During the four-year study, from 1988 to 1993, 43 of 122 babies died or were brain-damaged.

Sharon Bradley, 30, said yesterday that she was taking legal action against the trust and had complained to the General Medical Council about the way the experiment was conducted. Her son Stephen, five, has severe learning difficulties, autistic traits and cannot talk. "I was not told anything about this being some sort of experiment. I was just persuaded that this was the best treatment for my son. I signed some things in the neonatal unit, but I had no idea this was a trial," she said.

Lisa and Paul-Bretton said their life had been torn apart by the death of their son Joshua in 1991 but they had not learnt he had been involved in an experiment until 1997. "We were hoodwinked into going along with the hospital. There are so many people you can blame ... all the doctors and hospital authorities, because they kept us in the dark so long."

Debbie and Carl Henshall, whose complaint to their local MP Jim Golding triggered the inquiry, said their consent form had been "manufactured". They had one daughter who died and one who was brain-damaged in 1992, but they only found out about the trial four years later. Mrs Henshall, who gave evidence to the inquiry on



Sharon Bradley, who says she was not told anything about the experiment, with her autistic son Stephen, five, at home in Newcastle-under-Lyme

Andrew Fox

Tuesday, said: "I find that incredible. I know my way around a 'prem' unit, having had six premature babies, but basically they fooled me. They fooled me not once but twice. I am angry about that."

Professor Cook said obtaining consent from parents at a time of intense stress, such as after the birth of a premature baby, presented enormous difficulties. In a study conducted by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in five hospitals in which severely ill babies were

placed on a heart-lung machine, the researchers interviewed the parents a year later to find out what they had understood.

"The researchers had taken enormous care about getting informed consent but were horrified to discover that the parents had completely misunderstood or failed to retain what it was about."

In the North Staffordshire trial, led by the consultant paediatrician Professor David Southall, the treatment involved

placing premature babies who had difficulty breathing in a modern version of an iron lung using a technique known as CNEP (continuous negative extra corporeal pressure), instead of the conventional treatment of inserting a tube into their lungs and forcing in air.

Of 122 babies who had the experimental treatment, 28 died and 15 suffered brain damage. In a control group of 122 who had conventional treatment, 22 died and 10 suffered brain damage.

Despite the higher death rate among the experimental group (although the difference was not great enough to be statistically significant), the trust said yesterday that it was "an effective treatment in reducing the duration of oxygen therapy required... in premature infants".

It added that the babies were "a very high risk group" and there was no evidence that any death or disability was a consequence of the study.

The British Medical Associa-

tion said obtaining informed consent was "at the very heart of good medical practice".

A spokesman for North Staffordshire NHS Trust said last night: "We believe very firmly that our consent procedures went beyond the national guidelines of the time. I would accept that people in this situation (after a premature birth) are under huge stress and there may be a national issue of obtaining consent in these cases."

Key GM foods report 'is not fit to publish'

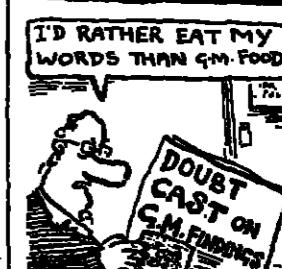
BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE CONTROVERSIAL research at the centre of the row over genetically modified (GM) foods has been dismissed as substandard and unworthy of being published in any reputable scientific journal.

An independent analysis of the research report written by Dr Arpad Pusztai, which showed that rats were damaged when they were fed GM potatoes, has found serious failings with his experiments, undermining his main conclusion that the food is unsafe.

Tom Sanders, professor of nutrition at King's College Lon-

Tim



don and one of Britain's most distinguished food toxicologists, has dismissed Dr Pusztai's research as "fundamentally flawed" and "unconvincing".

Professor Sanders, who was asked by *The Independent* to be an objective referee of the study, said none of the major scientific journals would publish the research. "In my experience as an editor and reviewer it would be rejected by the *British Journal of Nutrition*, *Journal of Nutrition* and *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*," he writes in his peer review published today in *The Independent*.

Dr Pusztai had to retire from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen last August after claiming his work showed rats suffer when fed GM potatoes.

Professor Martin Chirapees, of the University of California at San Diego, a friend of Dr Pusztai, has scrutinised the research and he described the claim as "extraordinary". Dr Pusztai has also been criticised by colleagues on the project. John Gatehouse, a biologist and one of the three research co-ordinators, said he could not see how Dr Pusztai could form his conclusions based on the data he had seen.

Dr Pusztai was unavailable for comment.

Pusztai: the verdict, Review, page 9

Turks humiliate Kurd leader as London protest ends

THE OCCUPATION of the Greek Embassy in London by Kurdish protesters came to a peaceful end yesterday after politicians joined police negotiators to help reach an agreement.

Shortly after 2pm, 77 protesters, including four women, walked from the building in Holland Park, west London, and were arrested and charged

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

As the siege wound down, fall-out from the capture by Turkish forces of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan continued across Europe.

The Greek government was reeling from outrage over its failure to protect Mr Ocalan. Three cabinet members, including the Foreign Minister, Theodoros Pangalos, were forced to resign and the government's future was in doubt.

In a Turkish island prison, prosecutors began interrogating Mr Ocalan. They also hu-

miliated the rebel leader by forcing him to stand between two Turkish flags to be filmed.

With the Kurdish insurgents rudderless, the Turkish army kept up its latest incursion into neighbouring northern Iraq in pursuit of rebels seeking sanctuary. Troops backed by helicopters and warplanes pursued fighters in norther-

Iraq for the fourth day running.

In London, the human-rights lawyer Gareth Peirce was involved in final negotiations and agreed to represent those arrested. The end of the occupation ended three days of tension: with many Kurdish supporters demonstrating in the streets next to the embassy and keeping up a 24-

hour vigil, police had been concerned that the situation could flare at any moment.

Police said that the sole hostage, the embassy caretaker, Babis Patsouris, was in good health. He declined to comment on his ordeal, which began when the Kurds forced the door of the embassy.

It took less than an hour for

all the Kurds to leave the building yesterday, to be searched and arrested and driven away to be charged.

Police said that they were remaining on the alert and that up to 50 Kurdish demonstrators remained in streets near the embassy last night.

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OVERSEAS PRICES

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Croatia	1.00 CT	Myanmar	25.00 M
Cuba	7.00 500	Portugal	2.50 L
Egypt	35.00 PM	Rwanda	35.00 R
France	16.00 F	Singapore	35.00 S
Germany	4.50 DM	Spain	25.00 P
Greece	2.50 Dr	Sri Lanka	23.00 L
Hong Kong	7.50 HK	Turkey	5.00 Sh
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Ireland	1.00 500	USA	\$1.50

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IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY

Everyone wants a building by Nigel Coates, but Sheffield got there first

E JANE DICKSON MEETS THE ARCHITECT OF POP

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, DEBORAH ORR, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEM SMITH

Britain gives citizenship to 125,000

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Rights of access to Britain are to be granted to more than 125,000 islanders after Robin Cook won a Whitehall battle to extend citizenship to the inhabitants of some of the remaining British colonial outposts including Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

The Cabinet decision, which will be announced in a Government White Paper next month, ends a battle between the Foreign Office and the Home Office over extending rights of citizenship status to 13 British Dependent Territories.

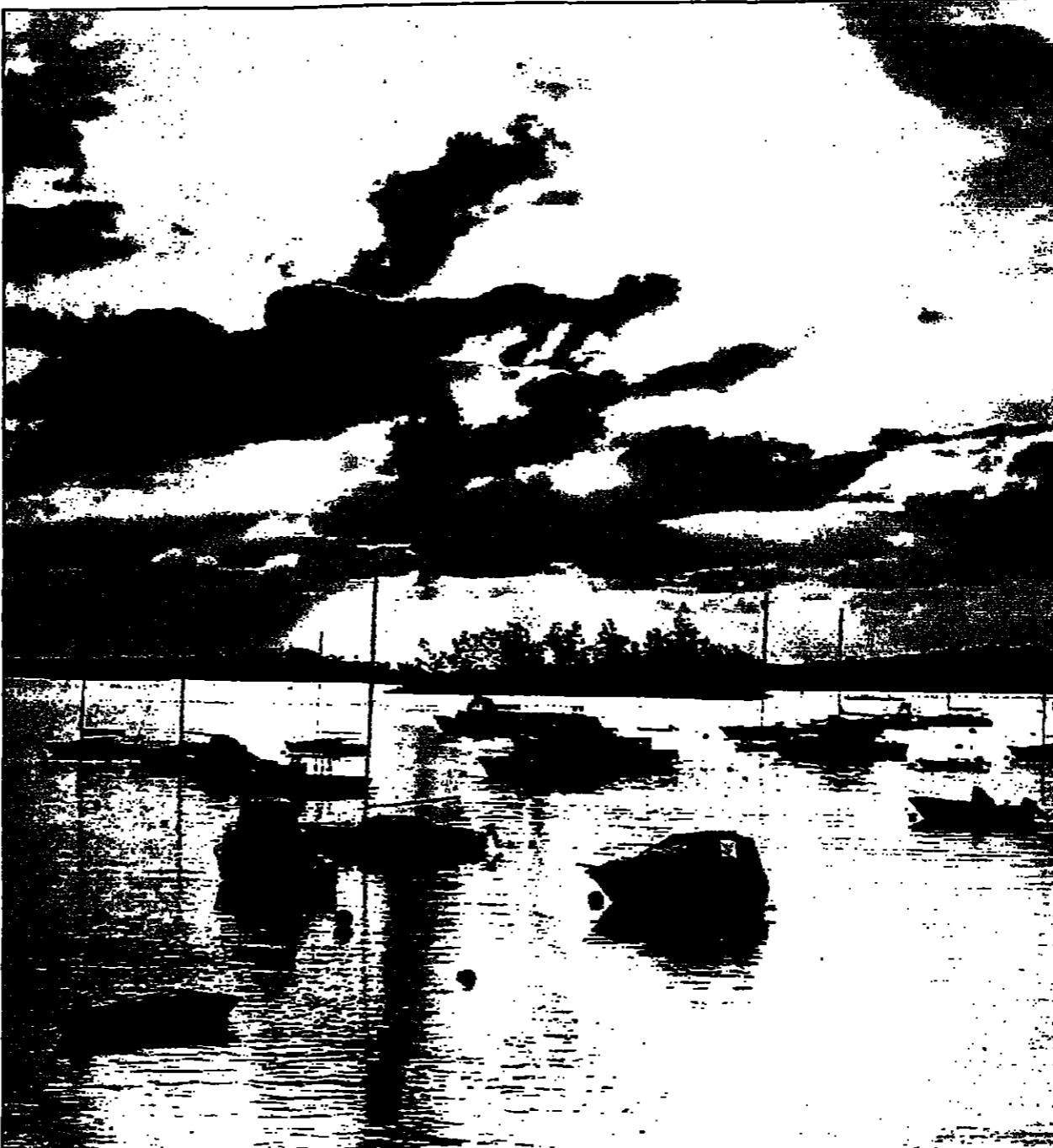
The *Independent* has learned that the Foreign Secretary also overcame stiff resistance from Alastair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, over the possible increased cost in the welfare budget if an influx of fresh immigration is allowed. Mr Cook got the backing of the Cabinet after arguing that few would take up the right to enter Britain.

Those who will be granted rights of access occupy the "last pink bits on the map", including around 80,000 inhabitants of Bermuda, the Caymans and the British Virgin Islands, who are thought least likely to

A spokesman for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said: "Jack Straw has been very sensitive to the fact that the Home Office has opposed the principle because of its concern about granting British citizenship rights to Hong Kong people. It was only prepared to go down that route if the Foreign Office agreed to take the lead, and take the flak. They are prepared to do that."

The Foreign Office has been getting a lot of its time taken up by receiving lobbies from microscopic islands and from big-wig supporters. They are quite successful at getting MPs and peers who are – quite properly – concerned about their rights. There is no prospect of any influx of these people coming into this country."

The Government is anxiously watching the outcome of a case which was referred recently by the High Court to the European Court of Justice for BOCs to have rights of movement across the European Union. If their appeal is upheld, it could reopen the whole question of the citizenship claims by the former Hong Kong nationals.



People from Bermuda 'one of the last pink bits on the map' are among those to get rights of access to Britain

Air bags 'make you deaf'

BY CLARE GARNER

AIR BAGS, which protect drivers and passengers in car accidents, could cause permanent loss of hearing or ringing in the ears after a crash, according to new research.

Researchers from Leeds General Infirmary, St James's University Hospital in Leeds and the Vehicle Safety Research Centre in Loughborough believe that the noise generated when air bags inflate – which can be up to 170 decibels – could damage the ears.

Their findings, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, are based on two cases in which drivers suffered hearing loss and persistent tinnitus which they believe may have resulted from air-bag inflation in low-speed collisions.

In one, a 38-year-old woman was involved in a collision in the United States while driving at about 20mph. The air bag struck her in the face and she noticed an immediate hearing loss, tinnitus and unsteadiness, the report says. Tests showed permanent hearing loss in the inner ear.

In the other case a 68-year-old man drove into the back of another vehicle at about 15mph. The air bag inflated and he complained of an immediate "bilateral" hearing loss and tinnitus. A test confirmed that his hearing had been impaired.

Overcrowded train line refuses to add any extra carriages

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

A TRAIN company with one of the worst punctuality records sparked an outcry yesterday when it said it could not justify investing more money to relieve overcrowding.

Connex said it wanted to add two carriages to trains on its two southern England franchises, but said there was "no commercial case" for it to invest

paid for the work. Connex said it would cost £20m-£30m to upgrade the track to cater for the longer trains.

It hinted that the only way for it to do this would be through "approval and support" – if the Government agreed to extend its franchise, thereby enabling it to recoup the investment, or

be more expensive. A spokesman said: "It would be difficult to justify the investment purely on commercial grounds but it would give an enormous capacity increase. There are other benefits such as meeting the anticipated rise in peak demand."

Sir Alan Green Gross, chairman of the London Regional

Passenger Committee, said: "There is very little that most of the operators are doing that gives us enough confidence that they should get to carry on for another five years."

"Most passengers are appalled that anyone could get a new contract when they want the present contracts taken away from them. Passengers

will find this totally inexplicable." SouthEastern was given a D grade for running 16 per cent of its trains late in 1998 and SouthCentral a C, where 10 per cent ran late.

It has a 15-year franchise on SouthEastern and has already had a bid to extend its seven-year SouthCentral contract rejected. Connex is understood to

be furious with the new grading system, which takes no account of the fact that it runs the most intensively used railway in Europe.

It believes it has delivered lower fares, more train services and an increase in passengers – all at a time when its taxpayer subsidy is falling. Great North Eastern Railway

sparked a similar row when it said it would buy 10 new trains in exchange for an extension. Its chief executive Chris Garrett also angered Virgin by saying GNER should have its franchise extended to show other operators how to run a proper railway. It said it deserved to have its seven-year franchise extended.

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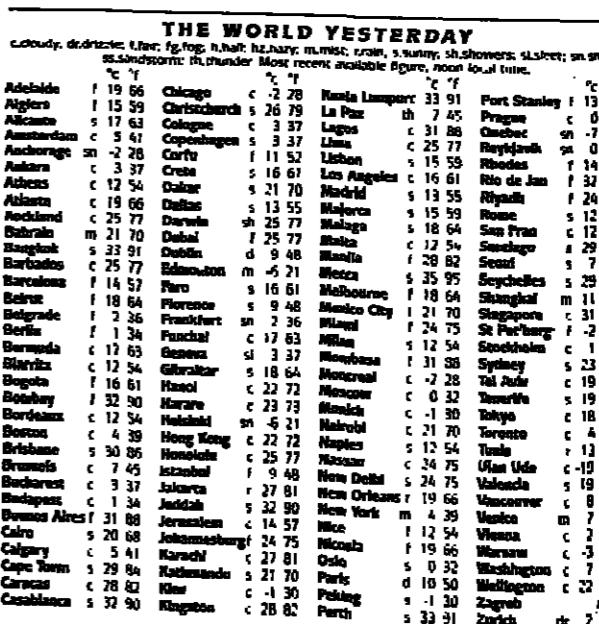
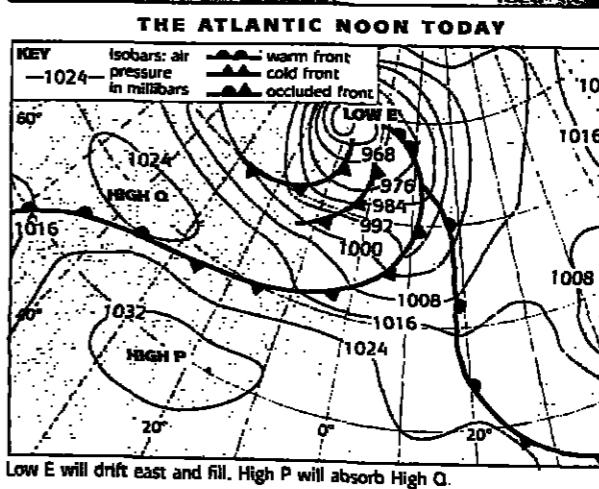
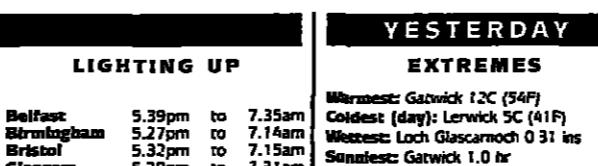
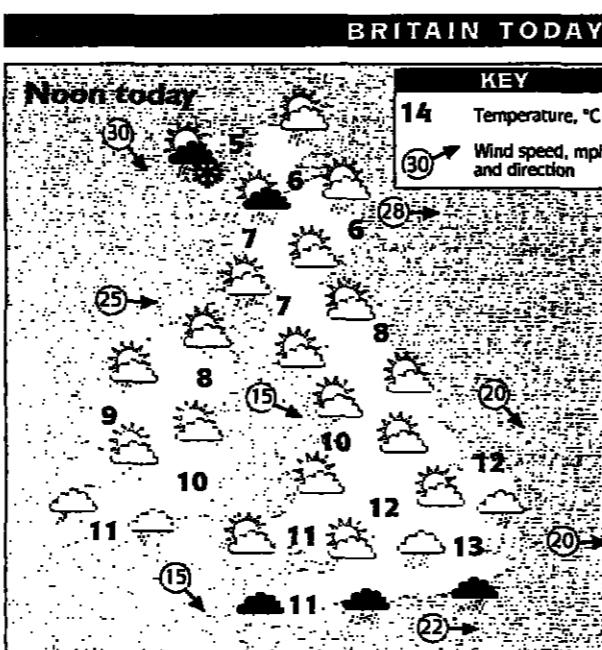
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London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31 December.
M1: Redbridge/M1/A10 between Foxton and M11. Redbridge/M1/A10 between Foxton and M11. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31 December.
M25: A10/A11, Major roadworks on A10 between Cheshunt and Luton. Cheshunt: Closure of A10/A11. Diversion: In place. Until 1st June.
M11: A14 Fletchers Dock. Roadworks and A14 Sutton Colne/A10 junction services and A14 Sutton Colne/A10 junction and contraflow. Until 23rd April.
Greater Manchester: A57, Normanton Manchester-bound, due to Meridien construction work. Until 22nd February.

South Yorkshire: M1 between J41 Thralley/Thralley. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31 December.
M6: Major roadworks on A10/A11 between Foxton and M11. Major roadworks on A10 between Cheshunt and Luton. Cheshunt: Closure of A10/A11. Diversion: In place. Until 1st June.
M62: A14 Fletchers Dock. Roadworks and A14 Sutton Colne/A10 junction services and A14 Sutton Colne/A10 junction and contraflow. Until 23rd April.
Greater Manchester: A57, Normanton Manchester-bound, due to Meridien construction work. Until 22nd February.

Two skiers were injured, one seriously, in an avalanche near the village of Jougue in the Jura mountains of eastern France yesterday. A 24-year-old woman from the area, who was found under about four metres (12ft) of snow, was described as being in a "very critical" condition in a nearby hospital. Eighteen people have been killed in avalanches this month after record snowfalls in the mountains of eastern France.

Police want

Would you get involved to stop this? The Home Secretary says it's your duty

BY ANN TREINER

THE OTHER night on the last train to Dover from London Charing Cross there was an incident that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, would have deplored. The time was 12.25am and we were about five minutes away from Orpington when a man staggered up the aisle, briefcase akimbo, and tried to open a locked door.

He banged and banged on that door. Another man then stood up, shakily, and said he was "an idiot". There was shouting and pushing. The entire carriage watched in silence. There was more pushing, more swearing, more shouting.

Then I shouted at the two men to "stop it".

Everyone's heads swivelled as one in my direction. There was total silence for one long moment. Then everyone looked at the floor or the newspaper, or out the window. The men resumed battle. Orpington station had never been so welcome.

So what would the Home Secretary have done? Yesterday he said that in order to end our uncaring "walk on by" society we all needed to realise that such incidents are not someone else's problem. We all need to have a go at petty crime. He noted that he recently saw a teenager spitting on other people. "I thought, 'You can't just stand and watch this,'" he intervened. "He gave me quite a lot of lip but after a while he calmed down," he said.

Some police do not agree with the Home Secretary. They would prefer that we should fight petty crime by making phone calls. "That is easily done in these days of mobiles," said Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon of the Police Superintendents' Association. This is because even boys whose only weapon appears to be spit may be hiding a knife in their pockets. "Individual acts of so-called heroism go sour very frequently," he said. "Our policy is do not have a go. There have been some tragic incidents where people have been seriously injured and even killed."

He called Mr Straw's ideas "dangerous". "People need to assist police and work with them to create no-go areas for petty criminals but that is not about physical intervention. But it is about being prepared to stand up in court if necessary."

A boy attempts to steal from a car

done himself. This is true. Jack Straw seems to have been born with a "have-a-go" gene. As a child, he told off an ice-cream vendor for playing his music too loudly after 7pm. Over the years he has chased and apprehended two muggers and one burglar; the latter being cornered in a place called Nab Lane in Blackburn.

Psychologists have been studying bystander apathy since Kitty Genovese was attacked in front of 37 people in New York some 30 years ago. Their response was to turn up their television sets. In half an hour she was dead.

Research showed that her big mistake was to be attacked on a busy street. "As long as we think other people are around, we are less likely to act," said Professor Bibb Latane, of Florida Atlanta University.

"Each individual looks at a worrying event and decides it may not be as bad as he fears because others are not doing anything."

Even the Church of England understands why we all think of our own safety first. "But then you need to think what else you can do. If you only think of your own safety and walk off, then nothing is achieved," said Steve Jenkins, a spokesman for the Church of England. What would Jesus do? "I hate those questions. It's not something I can answer."

The Home Office says that we need to use our own judgement. This is difficult in an age when people are killed over a parking space or stabbed if they ask someone to stop queue-jumping.

Psychologists say it is an individual thing. Certain types of people tend to intervene when they see a crime because they think it is the right thing to do. They tend to have been brought up in families with a strong sense of personal responsibility. They do not think they are brave, or particularly unusual.

Nobody was brave or unusual in the train carriage the other night. Two men fighting over a locked door is about as petty as it gets, but the Home Secretary would say that was no excuse.

Things could have turned nasty and then we would have wondered who to blame.

Police want civilians on patrol

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

CHIEF CONSTABLES have backed the introduction of civilian street patrols to act as a second security force to help police. The "neighbourhood wardens" will be used to tackle noisy and disruptive neighbours, vandals, litter louts and anti-social behaviour.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) voted to support the introduction of wardens in England and Wales, arguing that it was an "inevitable" and "welcome" development.

The wardens are expected to be trained by the police, but paid for by local authorities and private sponsorship. They will have uniforms and radios to keep in touch with the police.

chief officers that neighbourhood wardens are inevitable and should be welcomed. They will provide a visible presence which helps support the police and community."

He added that the wardens would be expected to "deal with minor aspects of anti-social behaviour such as noise, illegal parking in driveways, rubbish dumping and disputes among tenants and neighbours".

He stressed that the wardens would not have police powers, but would be able to make citizens arrests, which allows anyone to detain a person who has broken the law. "In 90 per cent of cases I'm sure a word in the ear of whoever is

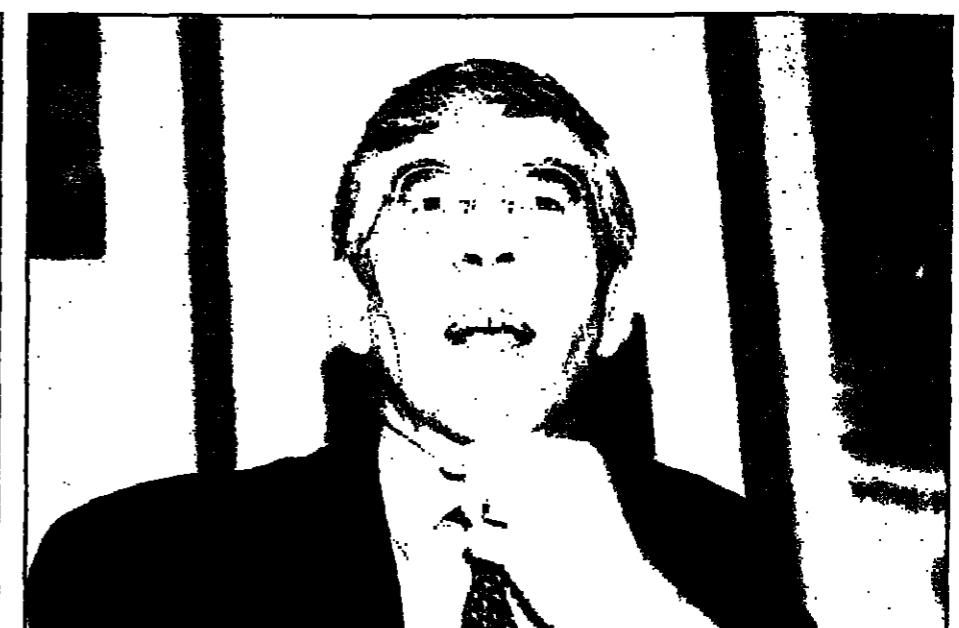
being a nuisance will be enough to make them stop."

Two local authorities in Surrey are interested in setting up wardens and Scotland Yard is in discussions with Westminster, Wandsworth and Brent councils in London, about setting up civilian patrol teams made up of local authority employees.

The decision to back the use of wardens was made at Acpo's full council in December, but the outcome has only now been disclosed.

Ian Blair, Chief Constable of Surrey and secretary of the Acpo sub-committee which is drawing up plans for the patrols, said yesterday: "There's a broad recognition among

the public that the public deserves fully trained, accountable, professional police officers and not a cheap alternative."



'Don't walk on by' – it is easier said than done

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS AND DARIUS SANI

comes to someone beating someone up I would hesitate because I am only a girl. But when the adrenaline starts to rush you don't know what you would do."

Would she stop a child spitting at passers-by? "I would

WE ASKED...

Would you intervene if you saw:

Vobs spitting from a bridge on to passers-by?

Someone dropping litter?

A person hitting a dog?

Vandals damaging a phone box?

A couple having a fight?

White youths picking on a black youth?

probably laugh. Kids always do things like that."

In the Yorkshire commuter village of Horsforth, attitudes depended on the seriousness of the misdemeanour.

Sue Cheaton, 22, working in the village bakery, would not intervene if children were dropping litter or spitting.

Kieran Pope, a 24-year-old scaffolder from East London, said a public-minded approach could stray into stupidity.

If a phone box was being vandalised? "It would depend on who was doing it," he said. "I wouldn't intervene if it could get me into trouble. The person could be a bit of a nutter. You don't know what people are like. If someone does that they are not all there."

He would almost certainly stop a man hitting his partner but would only stop a woman.

"If she was stamping on his head with high heels then I would restrain her."

Sophie Kerton, a 23-year-old production company worker, from North London, said:

"Racism makes me sick. I will verbally stand up against anyone being racist but when it

ty violent. I've seen couples fighting and walked on by before. I felt guilty."

But a racist would be different. "Even if they look intimidating, I'd definitely intervene. Some things are not worth getting beaten up for, some are."

Anthony Scurrah, a former professional middleweight boxer, 6ft5in, lean, muscular and tattooed, said: "I don't fear anybody, but kids are parents' responsibility and no parent should pretend he doesn't know what his kids are getting up to."

"For litter and spitting, I'd just think, 'Idiots', but wouldn't bother saying more. If they were kicking a dog, it would depend. If the dog was yelping in pain, I'd ask them what they thought they were doing."

"If they were vandalising a phone box, I'd call the police on my mobile, and also say to them, 'Come on lads'. I'd have to be wary about getting into a fight because of who I am. I'm reluctant to hurt people."

"A couple fighting and arguing, well, she might deserve to get hit, how do I know?"

"In a racist attack I'd get in there straight away."

Jane Hollingsworth, 63, shopping in Morrison's store, said she would definitely "have a word" with people dropping litter, but not spitting.

"If they were hitting a dog I'd shout and call the police. Couples fighting I can't be dealing with, it's their business."

"If there were a racial attack, I would call the police."

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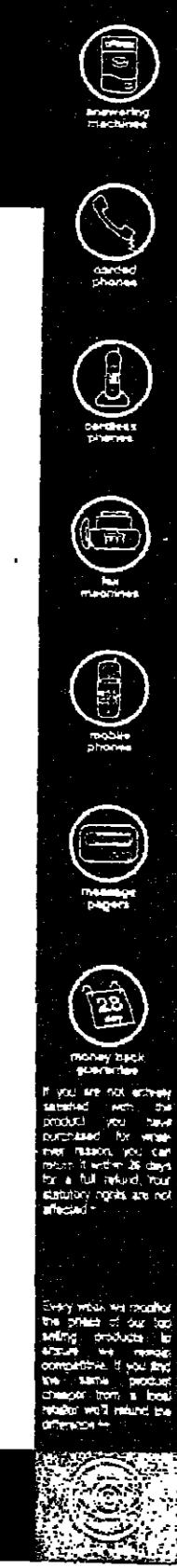
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Planting of GM crops to be halted

GENETICALLY MODIFIED crops will not be grown commercially until the Government is satisfied their management does not harm farmland wildlife, the environment minister, Michael Meacher, said.

Commercial planting will not be allowed until enough data have been gathered. The assurance, amounting to an indefinite moratorium, will go some way to meeting concerns of the Government's wildlife advisers. English Nature, that the countryside may be devastated by new weedkillers which most of the crops are being designed to accommodate.

English Nature and its sister agencies in Wales and Scotland have called for a three-to-five-year moratorium on commercial plantings until research on the new weed-killers, and the possible trans-pollination effect on wild plants of the GM crops, has been carried out. Tony Blair has publicly rejected the moratorium call.

Mr Meacher said yesterday: "We need the accurate, scientifically based data on which we can make the judgment that the sowing of GM crops and the use of their accompanying herbicides does not cause significant damage to the environment."

His comments came as the Government took the unprecedented step of issuing all its MPs with a "fact-pack" signed by five ministers and designed to quell fears over GM crops.

It illustrates the depth of government anxiety over the issue. "The Government recognises there is public concern about genetic modification. It is a fast-moving science and we accept we do not always have all

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
COLIN BROWN AND
FRAN ABRAMS

the answers. We want to understand people's views," the letter said.

At present the Government has agreed a voluntary moratorium on commercial GM plantings with the biotechnology industry until spring 2000. Yesterday both English Nature and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said that this would not nearly be long enough for proper test data to be gathered.

Two farms are being used this summer to test the large-scale environmental effects of growing oilseed rape genetically modified to be herbicide-tolerant, which is first in the queue for commercial growth in the UK.

But Mr Meacher said that if not enough data had been collected by next spring, he would go back to the biotechnology companies and explain that more time was needed.

In the light of current publicity, he said, he would expect them to co-operate, but hinted that if they did not, the Government would force them to.

Although Monsanto and Zeneca, two of the biggest biotechnology companies, said on Wednesday that they would fight, in the European Court, any enforced delay on commercial plantings, Article 16 of the European Union directive regulating GM crop plantings gives the Government power to stop them and revoke licences already given, if new information is discovered that they may be harmful to the environment.



Genetically modified soya dumped yesterday at the gates of Downing Street, where seven Greenpeace members were arrested and later released on police bail. Activists were also held trying to stop a GM shipment being landed in Liverpool, and police impounded the boats of Greenpeace members heading to the port for a seaborne protest. Mykcl Nicolau

Seeds ban could lead to 'brain-drain'

A BAN ON genetically-modified crops would lead to a "brain-drain", with many of the UK's leading scientists forced to move abroad to continue their studies, says a leading producer of GM food.

Zeneca, the pharmaceutical and agrochemicals giant, claims a moratorium on the planting of GM seeds could destroy Britain's lead in biotechnology research and deprive consumers of choice.

English Nature, the government wildlife agency, and the

Conservative Party have called for a three-year freeze on GM crops to assess the effects of the new herbicide-resistant seeds on the countryside.

But Michael Pragnell, the head of Zeneca's agrochemicals operations, has warned that a ban could cause a mass exodus of Britain's best brains.

"It would be extremely bad for the progress of science and it would be extremely bad for the country," he said. "If you

have a ban] you are encouraging leading scientists to move elsewhere."

Sir Richard Sykes, head of the drug giant Glaxo Wellcome and one of the most respected figures in the pharmaceutical industry yesterday said the debate on GM food was ill-informed, and attacked the Conservative Party for supporting the ban.

The Tories, he said, were "jumping on the anti-GM bandwagon" even though they had supported them while in power.

Mr Pragnell, who was in charge of the development of Zeneca's hugely-successful GM tomato paste, said a moratorium would be in "flagrant defiance" of European Union laws which allow limited trials of GM crops.

He warned that the upsurge on GM foods could delay the launch of some products. "The debate is welcome but what we don't want is delay in bringing our products to the market caused by misinformation."

Zeneca has applied for permission to produce its GM

tomato paste in Europe following the success of its supermarket trials in the UK. The company sold more than 1.6m cans of the puree in market trials in Sainsbury and Safeway stores.

The product is made from tomatoes grown in California which incorporate genes from other tomatoes to reduce their water content and make them more suitable for paste production.

Zeneca expects to receive European Union approval later this year with the first tins of paste set to appear on supermarket shelves by the second half of next year. Zeneca is set to launch a disease-resistant banana in 2003.

Mr Pragnell said labelling of GM food was "essential" to reassure consumers that they were not being duped by the manufacturers.

He praised the government for its handling of the GM food crisis. He said: "I think the government has done well by proceeding very cautiously."

Victim left with fear of blacks awarded £600,000

AN ASIAN man who developed a paranoid fear of black people after he was viciously attacked was yesterday awarded nearly £600,000 in damages and told to go and live in a place where there are no blacks.

Mohibur Rahman, 30, was attacked in 1995 by two suspected drug dealers whom he had banned from the King's Cross branch of Burger King in cen-

tral London where he worked as manager.

Following the assault, he developed post traumatic stress disorder which showed itself in an "intense and wholly irrational dread of Afro-Caribbean people", the court heard.

Awarding Mr Rahman, who is blind in one eye following a

bungled hospital operation after the attack, £575,412 in damages, Mr Justice Rougier said he was a "psychiatric cripple" whose life was in ruins.

The judge said he believed there would be a considerable improvement in Mr Rahman's condition if he lived in a less hostile environment. He lives in Battersea, south London.

"I've been painted a picture

of a man cowering in his home, afraid to venture forth in fear of meeting black people," he said.

Mr Rahman, he added, should go to an environment where there are no black people or so few that they presented a minimal risk of aggravating his phobia.

"Of all the places he should not live, I suggest that south London tops the list. It is a

multi-racial city but it is not possible to go for a five-minute walk or enter a couple of shops without seeing people of Afro-Caribbean origin.

He said that while on trips to Bangladesh and Scotland there had been a marked improvement in his condition.

"He owes it to his wife, he owes it to the next harmless West Indian he may assault in the

street, but most of all he owes it to himself."

The court heard that prior to the attack, in which boiling oil was splashed on his legs and he was kicked and punched, Mr Rahman had been a bright and sociable young man who had been head-hunted for the job.

But now he was unemployed and spent all his time in his flat in "alternating states of list-

lessness and terror." He also suffered from a severe depressive disorder which left him suicidal and, at one time, homicidal towards the surgeon who operated on him.

Mr Rahman had sued his employers, the franchise owner Ararose Ltd, for failing to take security measures which could have prevented the attack, and University College London Hospitals NHS Trust for its later treatment of him.

He had frequently complained about trouble in the restaurant, which was a magnet for the area's drug dealers, prostitutes and drunks, but nothing had been done. The company, said the judge, was at fault in failing both to segregate the kitchen area and to install monitoring screens.

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SHAKESPEARE

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James Brown, the guru of laddism, leaves 'GQ' after a lapse of taste

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

JAMES BROWN, the creator of *Loaded*, instigator of laddism, award-winning editor and the man who revolutionised men's magazines, has parted company with *GQ* after a serious lapse in taste and some disappointing sales figures.

The lapse was a list of the 200 most stylish men of the century published in the March edition of *GQ*, which came out last week. Mr Brown was set on a collision course with his bosses for including "The Nazis" and Rommel on his list.

It didn't help that Si Newhouse, patriarch and owner of *GQ*'s publisher, Condé Nast, is Jewish. Condé Nast would only say yesterday that the Nazis editorial was a "mistake" and that Mr Brown was still editor. However, it is understood he is negotiating his leaving package.

The March edition of *GQ* attracted complaints from the Anti-Nazi League and Jewish organisations. It had already been a bad week for Mr Brown when the story broke.

The New York men's fashion shows are taking place and Mr Brown was supposed to be in attendance.

Unfortunately, Ronnie Newhouse, wife of Jonathan Newhouse, chairman of Condé Nast International, and another boss of Mr Brown's, is head of press at Calvin Klein.

She expected to be accompanied to some shows by Mr Brown, but he reportedly stayed in his hotel room before leaving New York to holiday in Puerto Rico.

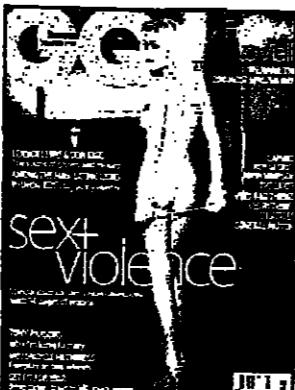
When the Nazis story broke, he was summoned back to London for a meeting with yet another boss, Nicholas Coleridge, head of Condé Nast UK.

Despite the poor style judgement, the most important factor in Mr Brown's falling-out with Condé Nast was the sales figures for the magazine.

Last week *GQ* posted its circulation for the last six months of 1998.

A modest increase had taken the title up to an average of 132,000 copies a month.

This is not what Condé Nast had in mind when it lured Mr



The offending March edition of 'GQ' magazine

Brown to *GQ* in May 1997. Then the title was selling 148,000 copies a month under the previous editor, Angus MacKinnon.

But Condé Nast was watching the lad's magazines *Loaded* and *FHM* take the market into the sales stratosphere, each selling more than 500,000 a month.

It wanted some of that action, so Mr Brown was brought in on a £100,000-plus salary.

At the very least, Condé Nast wanted him to bring the title up to 250,000 or 300,000 a month.

In addition to sales, Condé Nast wanted colour. Before Mr MacKinnon, who is universally described as "dormish", the editor of *GQ* was Michael VerMeulen, a larger-than-life figure who died young from cocaine and alcohol abuse.

Mr Brown was supposed to bring "danger" back to the magazine.

That he certainly did. He gave up drinking shortly after his arrival when, in a post-lunch mood, he threw a champagne bottle through a window.

Drug and alcohol abuse had been part of the formula of *Loaded*, but it was also a part of Mr Brown's life.

He has described, as a teenager, sitting drinking on a park bench in his home town of Leeds to blot out the pain of his parents' separation.

After leaving school Mr Brown started his own music fanzines and travelled with bands. He got a job on the music magazine *NME* and rose to become its features editor.

When he failed to become the music weekly's editor, he left but was called back by its publisher, IPC, to talk about a new magazine idea. That idea was *Loaded*, a magazine about the best moments in your life, which, for a certain kind of twentysomething male, was football, women and drinking.

Loaded became a publishing phenomenon, increasing its sales by over 50 per cent every six months. The formula was copied by titles like *FHM* and *Maxim* and it scooped award after award.

When Condé Nast brought in Mr Brown, it promised he would not take the title down-market, but there has undoubtedly been a revolution.

VerMeulen may have been colourful, but he had started his own theatre, was friends with David Mamet and John Malkovich and appreciated fine writing.

Mr Brown is credited with having "big ideas" and a fair for taking the ordinary man's thoughts and making them work in magazine form.

He is also acknowledged as a promoter of innovative talent. Those who have worked with him call him a charming tyrant.

But *GQ* has undoubtedly plunged down-market. The nipple count has increased, the writers have changed and there are a lot more bite-sized lists and snippets of writing.

Condé Nast has also thrown money at the magazine. The promotional budget has increased from around £100,000 to over £650,000. Almost every edition comes with giveaway CDs, CD-Roms, books and magazine supplements.

And yet the magazine is selling fewer copies than when Mr Brown took over. "It is the endless story of the maverick editor," says a rival magazine editor.

"Corporations see them being successful and think we'd like some of that".

"But then they become difficult and the corporate structure cannot take the baggage that comes with their talents."

Ultra-lad James Brown, creator of *Loaded*, then editor of *GQ*, the magazine in which he suggested the Nazis were chic. *Glynn Griffiths*

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Vasectomies failure victim loses in court

A MAN who fathered two daughters after two failed vasectomies was left with a huge legal bill yesterday after losing a negligence claim against the hospital which performed the operations.

John Pickett - thought to be the first man to have had two "late failure" vasectomies - said he was "stunned and disappointed" after losing the case at Leeds High Court and having costs awarded against him. The costs are expected to amount to tens of thousands of pounds.

In a three-day hearing, Mr. Pickett, 47, and his wife, Pauline, 41, said surgeons at St James's Hospital, Leeds, did not tell them there was a "remote" risk of the second vasectomy, carried out in 1992, failing. They opted for the second vasectomy after the first, in 1988, failed and Mrs Pickett gave birth to a daughter.

The couple, of Roundhay, Leeds, told the court that if they had realised there was still a risk of pregnancy they would have used additional contraception after the second operation.

Judge John Altman said that although he found the hospital had breached its duty of care by not giving them proper advice before the second vasectomy, it would not have made any difference. "They knew of the risk, they had been through it before and the real-

By LISA SALMON

ity is that it was not so much a matter of medical risks and probability which coloured their judgment as to what to do in relation to alternative contraceptive measures. It was a human decision that in effect it couldn't happen to them twice," he said. "It is quite clear to me that is what in the end reassured them to proceed."

He added: "There was a negligence act, but I also find that that negligence act made no difference whatsoever, either to their state of mind or their state of knowledge at the time."

The couple have six children, aged between four and 14, one of whom was adopted just before Mrs Pickett discovered she was pregnant after the first vasectomy.

She gave birth to a daughter, Louise-Charlotte, now seven, three years after the first operation and Emily, four, two years after the second vasectomy.

The court heard that the chance of late failure, where the patient becomes fertile after being given the all-clear in the months after surgery, was one in 2,000-3,000.

However, medical experts said there was no record of two late failures occurring anywhere in the world. Outside court, the couple said that

although they were disappointed they were also relieved that the proceedings, which began four years ago, were finally over. Mr Pickett, an engineer, said: "We went in believing that we had a good case, otherwise we would not have gone to trial."

"Although it was in the back of our minds, we are disappointed that costs were awarded, having proved there was a breach of duty of care."

"I think what it has shown is that doctors have a duty of care above just doing the operation. This has always been our concern - the fact that nobody seemed to be bothered."

John and Pauline Pickett yesterday after losing their case at Leeds High Court and having costs awarded against them

Matthew Power



Matthew Parris and 'Countdown's' Carol Vorderman

'Countdown' is faked, says Parris

MATTHEW PARRIS, the man who "outed" Peter Mandelson, has exposed another beloved national institution, the cult Channel 4 show *Countdown*.

The former Conservative MP yesterday unravelled the mystery of why the celebrity guest and resident sidekick in *Dictionary Corner* almost always unearth longer, more exotic words than any contestant. Obviously the dictionary helps, but so, Mr Parris reveals, does an earpiece connected to two wordsmiths off-camera.

Although principally worn to receive direction from the programme's production control box, the earpiece is also handy for relaying some of the English language's more extravagant flourishes to grateful celebrities unable to think beyond four-letter words.

"They put in an earpiece," explained Mr Parris, "and from some control room somewhere suggested words are dictated to you. You can pick your own words if you want but I found the suggestion from the control came much faster. I was pleased with the help, as I would have been struggling without it. I used to wonder why the celebrities were so clever - and now I know."

On hand to bale out the celebrity are four people: Mark Nyman, a former world Scrabble champion and *Countdown* champion of champions; Michael Wylie, a former *Countdown* winner; Damien Eddie, another former *Countdown* champion of champions; and Susie Dent, of the Oxford University Press.

One sits at the guest's side, while the rest play the game in the control box and "prompt"

By RHYNS WILLIAMS

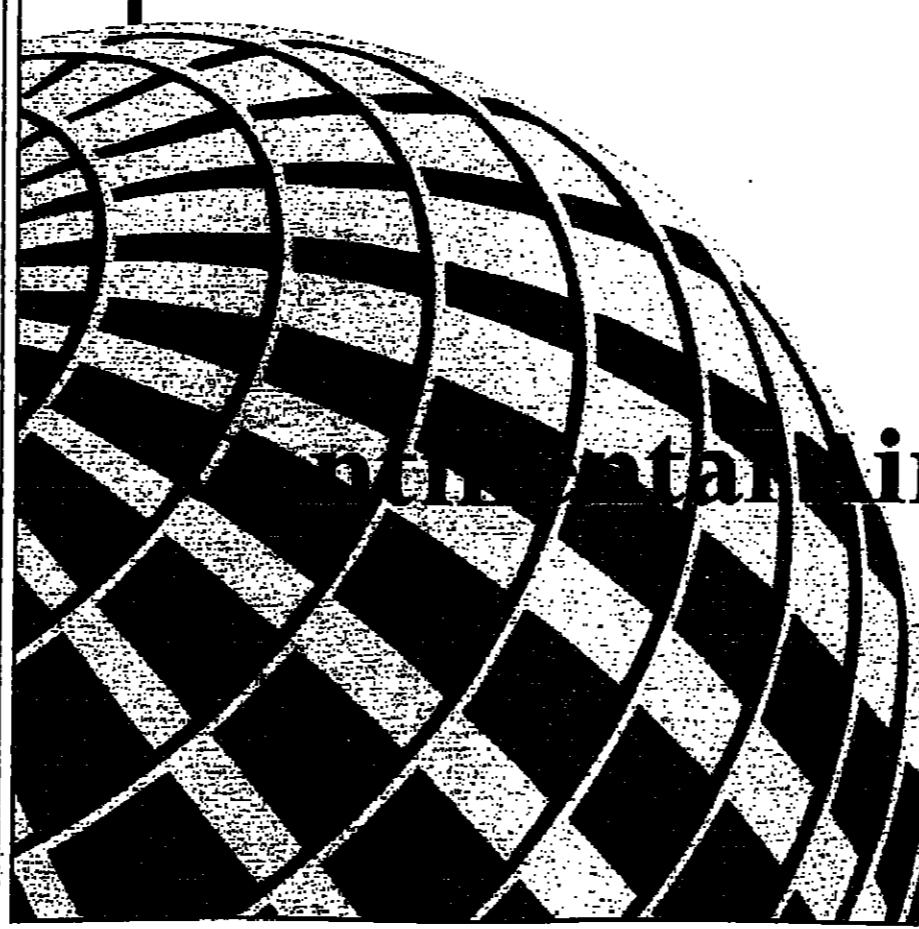
the celebrity. The programme's main contestants, of course, play unaided, as does Carol Vorderman in the mathematical segment of the show.

Mr Parris said he was not minded to raise the assistance with the show's producers afterwards. "Good heavens, no," he said, "it saved me from humiliation." A parliamentary sketch-writer for *The Times*, he is campaigning against TV producers he believes are misleading the public. It follows rows over faked documentaries and confessional talkshows on daytime TV that booked actors instead of real guests.

Mr Parris disclosed on BBC2's *Newsnight* that Mr Mandelson, former trade and industry secretary, was gay.

However, his disclosure about *Countdown*, which opened Channel 4's transmissions 17 years ago, marks his most daring outburst. *Countdown* is the network's most popular programme after *Brookside*, the combination of Ms Vorderman's arithmetical gymnastics and Mr Whiteley's bad jokes making it must-watch for students and pensioners.

"The point is that I don't think that it would ruin the show if the viewers were told about the help (celebrity) guests get," Mr Parris said. "It would be useful to let the audience know the difference between the really clever people and the apparently clever people. Overall though, *Countdown* was less rigged than some of the shows I have been on." A spokeswoman for the programme insisted there was no deception involved.



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Late airline blames the hurricanes

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST holiday airline, Britannia, suffered a large increase in flight delays last summer, according to figures released yesterday.

Almost one in five of the company's planes were more than an hour late - nearly double the figure from the summer of 1997, according to the report by the Air Transport Users Council. But, overall, the report found that delays to charter flights in and out of main UK

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

airports last summer were about the same as in summer 1997, despite a seven per cent increase in flights. "Britannia has slipped badly and we are looking to the carrier to recover its position in the coming year," said an ATUC spokesman. A spokeswoman for Britannia blamed industrial action in Spain as well as Hurricane Mitch, which dev-

astated Honduras, for the increase in delays.

"Our operational performance during summer 1998 was affected by a number of different circumstances including the Spanish air traffic control strike, Greek industrial action and hurricanes - plus the increase in aircraft and international expansion," she said. She added that the airline had previously been a role model for other airlines and summer 1999 would be a top priority.

But it was not only Britannia which caused problems for travellers. Passengers with Air Europa also suffered severe delays, with a third of the airline's flights more than an hour late. The average delay was 57.54 minutes, putting it bottom of a table of 21 airlines compiled by the council.

The statistics relate to charter flights operating in and out of nine airports from April to October 1998, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Birmingham, Glasgow and Luton. To qualify for inclusion in the table, an airline had to operate at least 100 flights on 10 or more routes during the summer. The average delay last summer was 37.6 minutes compared with 37.5 minutes in 1997.

CHARTER AIRLINE DELAYS

Airline	Rank by % late	%age more than one hour late	Av. Delay (mins)	
	1998	1997		
Flying Colours	1	3	5.33	8.33
Pegasus	2	1	6.18	11.90
British Airways	3	2	7.45	19.44
Eurocyprian Airlines	4	-	9.20	26.78
Onur Air	5	11	11.13	26.05
Airworld Aviation	6	23	13.28	28.39
Monarch	7	8	14.15	32.07
Air 2000	8	17	14.17	27.57
European Air Charter	9	10	14.97	38.75
Transair	10	22	16.52	44.77
British Midland	11	7	17.36	36.74
Future Airlines	12	12	17.74	37.44
Britannia Airways	13	4	19.50	44.03
Airtours	14	16	20.54	44.46
Caledonian Airways	15	19	21.31	47.29
Sabre Airways	16	20	21.66	49.13
Leisure Int'n'l	17	14	22.27	48.89
Brit World Airlines	18	15	24.73	47.98
Spanair	19	6	25.18	53.11
Viva	20	5	25.91	65.70
Air Europa	21	13	30.79	57.54

Key vote in Welsh contest

THE GMB union will today give a key pointer in the battle to choose Labour's leader in Wales.

Officials will reveal results of a branch consultation of its 64,000 members in Wales on whether it should back the Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, or his backbench rival, Rhodri Morgan.

The GMB has 6.2 per cent of the overall vote and its support could be crucial if constituency parties, Welsh MPs and as-

sembly candidates are as evenly divided as predicted.

Mr Michael, the preferred choice of Tony Blair, is assured of the block votes of the transport and engineering unions, although Mr Morgan has the support of Unison, the only big union to conduct an individual ballot.

After a three-month campaign, union votes are being seen as crucial before the vic-

tor is declared in Cardiff tomorrow. Unions have a third of the overall vote, with MPs, assembly candidates and the party's 25,000 members in Wales also balloting as part of an electoral college. Opinion polls and ballots among smaller unions have been in favour of Mr Morgan, the Cardiff West MP, by about 3:1.

His team was buoyant yesterday after the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union backed him, the ninth to do so.

SEMBLY candidates are as evenly divided as predicted.

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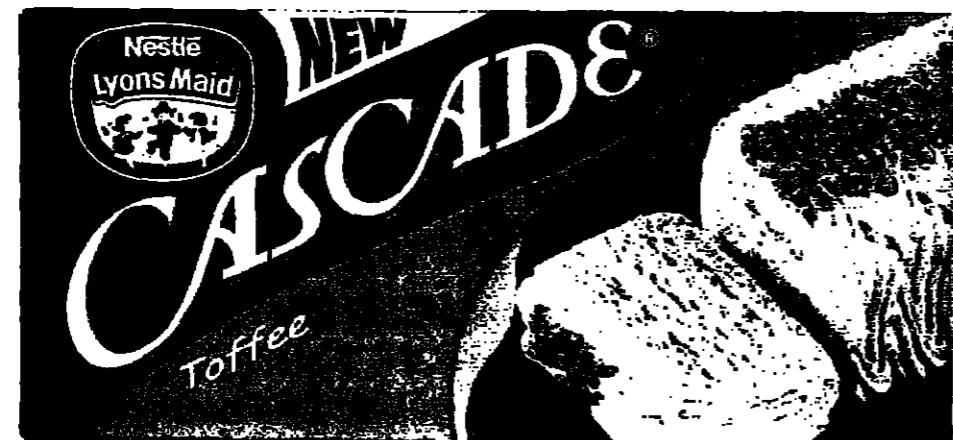
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Alan Meale (centre) with his adopted elephant Flora (right) who he has had to declare in the register of members interests, being held by keeper Stuart Cuthbert. They are joined by another elephant at the zoo, Flossie, with curator Derek Grove John Reavenall

Minister of Zoos adopts Flora the elephant abuse victim

AN MP will be putting a new declaration in the register of members' interests to explain his gift of an elephant. Alan Meale, the Environment minister, has "adopted" Flora, an elephant that was rescued after a court heard that she was badly treated in a case involving Mary Chipperfield. But the cost of the first year of adoption is being given to Mr Meale as a gift - and so it will go onto the members' register of interests.

Mr Meale, who has responsibility for zoo licensing, was touched by the story of the female African elephant when he made a ministerial visit to Dudley Zoo, West Midlands, where she is making a strong recovery.

He agreed to pay £60 a year to help with the cost of keeping Flora in return for being able to visit her with his family whenever he wishes, and a plaque is being put up outside her enclosure.

The minister has put up a certificate about Flora in his office at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, and will get regular bulletins on her condition - including on her birthday and at

Christmas." Peter Suddock, the chief executive of Dudley Zoo, said: "He came round with the local MP Ross Cranston (Labour, Dudley North) to have a look around the site to see the things we are doing for conservation and education.

"He is very keen on animal welfare and we thought it would be a nice touch to join the adoption scheme." Other people have adopted wildlife ranging from stick insects to lions.

Flora was one of the elephants named at Andover Magistrates Court in January when Mary Chipperfield and her husband, Roger Cawley,

were convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. They will be sentenced on 9 April. The court heard Flora was forced to perform tricks when she was ill.

Mr Suddock said his zoo took the unusual step of buying Flora to avoid her going to a circus in Spain. A vets' report this week said she had made a "significant improvement" in her health.

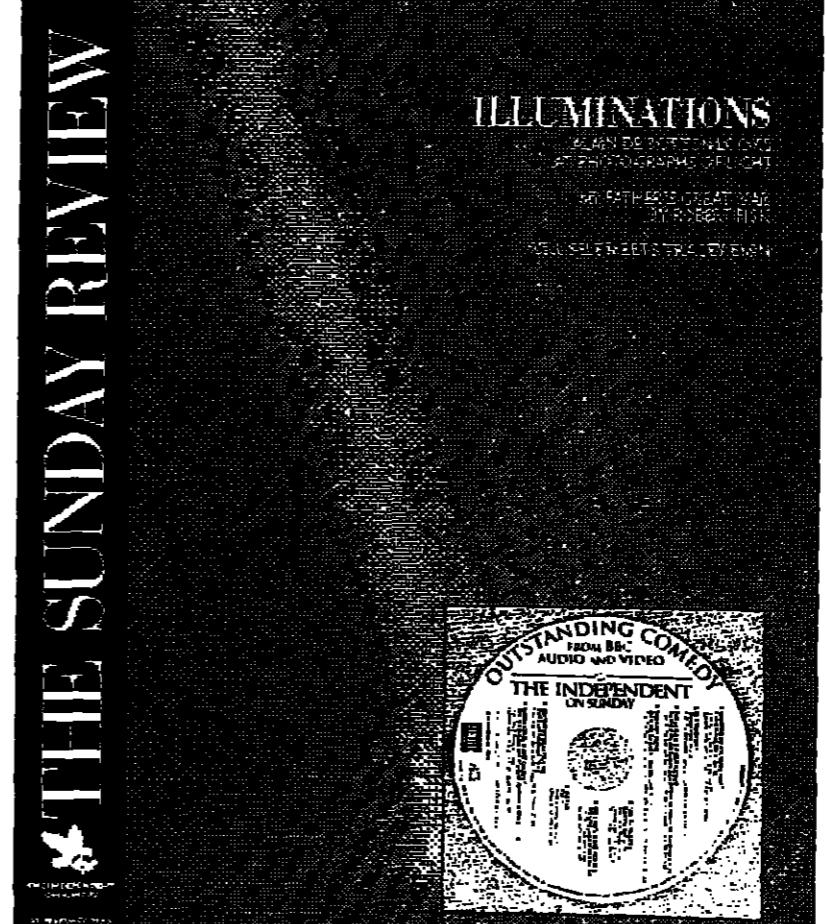
She is being used at the zoo in helping to teach children the importance of protecting elephants in the wild in developing countries.

Mr Meale was given a note confirming that his first year's

"adoption" of Flora was a gift so that he could record it in the members' interests register, but in future years he will have to pay. His Department said: "It's a personal matter."

His boss, John Prescott, the Secretary of State at the Department, is also to be awarded a zoological gold medal, previously held by David Attenborough, for his contribution to the sustainable environment. Chester Zoo, near to the village of Upton, where Mr Prescott grew up, is inviting him to accept the award later this year. They have a £1.8m investment from Jaguar cars for their jaguar cats project.

IN THIS WEEK'S THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



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Canals to be emergency water mains

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

BRITAIN'S DILAPIDATED canal network is to be used to relieve drought-prone areas by carrying water from parts of the country that have excessive rainfall.

British Waterways, the government agency that owns the 2,000-mile network, is already working on a pilot project with Thames Utilities, which supplies London and Berkshire, to supply 2 million litres a day by pumping water from Birmingham, which suffers from rising groundwater levels, down the Oxford canal. It already supplies half of the drinking water for Bristol from the Gloucester and Sharpness canal. This could be mirrored in other parts of the country.

British Waterways is looking at other joint ventures with privatised water companies.

The idea is being backed by the Government, which yesterday announced a package of measures to revitalise inland waterways, including the ability to seek private finance for joint initiatives.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he was increasing British Waterways' annual grant by £2m to £59m over the next three years.

He is determined to "unlock the potential of our waterways" to encourage more leisure use as well as exploiting the potential for "green" commuting and freight transport.

A British Waterways spokesman said: "The waterways have great potential for alleviating lack of water in some areas and the abundance of



John Prescott doing an impression of Kate Winslet in the film 'Titanic', as he announced new money for investment in the canal network

Tom Pilston

water in others. This is something we will be working on in the future."

A spokesman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, for which Mr. Prescott is also responsible, said: "The Government wants to see great use of facilities that are already there. A couple of years ago some areas suffered from drought and, with climate change, this could happen again. It makes sense to use what we have rather than dig big holes in the ground for reservoirs."

British Waterways said

there was a £260m backlog of investment, of which £90m was for urgent safety work.

Speaking on a trip along

London's Regents Canal from

King's Cross to Islington, Mr. Prescott said: "For far too long canals have been regarded as a decaying relic of a bygone age. Over the years our waterways have been starved of

resources, saddled with debts and unable to develop their full potential. Now British Waterways can start to achieve that potential."

Bernard Henderson, British

Waterways chairman, added: "We are delighted the Government shares our belief in their future and our desire to achieve much more for them." He said that by working in partnership

with councils and private companies it would be able to restore the waterways and encourage greater leisure activities.

Canals currently carry 3

million tonnes of freight a year, including a large contract to supply coal to Ferrybridge power station on the Aire and Calder canal, west Yorkshire. In its heyday, before the advent of

the steam locomotive, the network carried 30 million tonnes of freight a year.

British Waterways said it would work with local authorities to apply for grants to develop certain stretches of canal in inner cities as commuter links to encourage car drivers to use their bikes along towpaths instead. But it stressed its main focus was on leisure uses, such as walking and fishing. Britain's canal and waterways are regularly used by 10 million visitors a year.

Mr. Henderson said: "The inland waterways already benefit the lives and work of millions, but their rich potential has been limited by underfunding."

He said British Waterways was also looking at developing a National Trust-style membership organisation.

Half of the population lives within five miles of an inland waterway. Birmingham is known as "Venice of the North" because of its network. Manchester's canal, featured in a popular advert for Boddingtons, a local beer, which featured a Venetian gondola.

One in ten are victims of car crime

BY PHILIP THORNTON

ONE IN 10 people was the victim of car crime last year, according to a survey that reveals an increase in thefts and break-ins. The figure compared with 9 per cent in a similar study a year ago. The survey, published yesterday, found that car crime was the lowest in the South, where 3 per cent said they had been victims, while the highest was in Lancashire.

Of those questioned, 5 per cent had had their car broken into in the past 12 months, doubling to 10 per cent in the 25-to-34 age group. The survey, published as the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, urged people to intervene when they saw crime being committed, will come as a blow to the authorities. The Home Office's British Crime Survey recorded a fall of 27 per cent in thefts of vehicles and a fall of 25 per cent in attempted thefts or break-ins between 1995 and 1997.

The survey by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA) found that those most in fear of car crime were youngsters who tended to drive older and less secure vehicles. Almost half those aged 17 to 24 (48 per cent) feared becoming the victim of car crime. This compared with 15 per cent of those over 55. Concern was highest in the North-east (41 per cent) and Lancashire (37 per cent).

The survey also found that 92 per cent believed manufacturers should be doing more to improve vehicle security, compared with 89 per cent in the previous survey.

Freddie Aldous, BVRLA president, said: "While the UK

remains the car-crime capital of Europe, we will continue to pressure manufacturers to make security features standard across their range of products." According to the association, vehicle crime accounts for a quarter of UK crime and affects more than a million drivers annually. Three out of 100 British motorists will have their cars stolen, compared with one in 1,000 in Switzerland, said the BVRLA.

About 30 per cent of car crime is committed in car parks, where vehicles are 200 times more likely to be broken into or stolen than those parked at home. The survey was published by the BVRLA as it announced the winners of its annual vehicle security awards. Vauxhall was voted the most secure manufacturer in the super-mini and lower-medium class, while BMW took both the upper-medium and luxury and executive sector awards.

Ford was top in the light commercial vehicle section of the awards. Mercedes-Benz won the award in the heavy goods vehicle category.

A new environmental award went to the Swedish car company Volvo, as the manufacturer that could best demonstrate "green" credentials across the entire production process. The Home Office minister Paul Boateng said: "Motor manufacturers have made real progress in recent years in making cars more difficult to steal. Vehicle crime accounts for a quarter of all crime and must be tackled."

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CAR CRIME

KEY:
Per cent of those surveyed who:
Suffered car crime in 1998 [14]
Fear they will be victims of car crime in 1999 [24]

Scotland/Border	6
North East	13
Yorkshire	10
East Anglia	7
London	10
Midlands	7
Wales/South West	12
Source: Opinion Business Research	10

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Full alert as jets mobilise for Serbia

NATO GEARED up to attack Serbia yesterday if peace talks over Kosovo fail, sending another 51 aircraft to Europe in advance of air strikes.

British embassy staff in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, began preparing to leave after the Foreign Office told non-essential staff to quit the country.

In Washington, the State Department said United States embassy personnel in Serbia would also be evacuated.

With the deadline looming, the British and French foreign ministers appealed directly to the Serbian public to accept the peace accord. Any decision would have "far-reaching consequences for you, your country and the whole of Europe", the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, said in a joint statement.

The US said it had ordered the deployment of aircraft, including 12 F117 Nighthawk stealth fighters, "to assure that NATO has the capability to conduct operations should that prove necessary".

In the Macedonian capital Skopje, NATO's secretary-general, Javier Solana, warned that the alliance was ready to

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

strike immediately if the deadline for a peace deal on Kosovo of noon tomorrow is not reached. "It would be very soon," he told a press conference, "if an agreement is not reached, if the negotiations fail, NATO knows very well what to do." As negotiations on Kosovo's future dragged on at Ramboillet in France the NATO threat appeared intended to boost the talks rather than signal an imminent attack.

Representatives of Kosovo's Albanian majority are demanding a referendum on independence from Serbia, while the Serbs are resisting demands from the big powers for a \$30,000 NATO peace-keeping force to be deployed in the province.

Serbia's President Milan Milutinovic was due to return to the talks yesterday, giving rise to hopes that progress might still be possible. The US peace envoy, Christopher Hill, visited Belgrade on Tuesday to inject some energy into the process. NATO's ruling North Atlantic Council meets today to discuss the looming crisis. NATO issued an activation order for its

forces last year, which is still in action. This allows Mr Solana to press the button whenever he wants, though in practice any decision would need the agreement of NATO's 16 members in particular.

Despite the order for British diplomats to leave Serbia there was no sign yesterday of a plan to evacuate the 1,200 monitors in the country from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

There is already a French-led extraction force in Macedonia to help the monitors if necessary. Britain, Italy and France will also provide aircraft if strikes happen. Operation Noble Anvil, as the NATO action is designated, would involve hundreds of aircraft, the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*, B-52 and B-2 bombers.

If the alliance does launch strikes, it risks a confrontation with Moscow. The Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday that he had told the Americans he would not permit air strikes on Russia's Serb ally.

"I conveyed to Clinton my view, both by phone and by letter, that this will not work," he said. The US, however, said President Bill Clinton and President Yeltsin had not spoken.



KLA soldiers on the front line in Llapastica, in the north of the Serbian province of Kosovo

David Rose

Lawyers will inhibit Lewinsky in her TV interviews

AMERICANS COULD see the long-promised interview with Monica Lewinsky on or before 3 March, if negotiations between ABC Television, Ms Lewinsky's lawyers and the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, are successful.

But restrictions on what she may say could leave basic questions unanswered. The interview, to be conducted by Barbara Walters, daytime US interviewer, is planned to

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

begin a whirlwind of public exposure for the 25-year-old whose White House liaison nearly toppled the President.

The book, *Monica's Story*, written by Princess Diana's biographer Andrew Morton, is out in the US on 5 March, then Ms Lewinsky visits Britain for an interview with Jon Snow on Channel 4. After that she goes

to Norway. Ms Lewinsky is in effect under a "gag" order from Kenneth Starr, with whom she negotiated her immunity from prosecution last summer.

The terms of that agreement, which waived her liability to prosecution for perjury in return for her detailed account of her relationship with President Clinton, also prohibited her from saying anything to the media without his permission.

The ban remained through

the congressional proceedings that culminated in the President's acquittal last week. Her lawyers had submitted a formal request to lift it two weeks ago, when the Senate voted that she would not be summoned for further questioning, but the ban remained in force. Mr Starr's office is believed to be concerned that nothing Ms Lewinsky says will affect investigations still in progress.

These include the case of

Julie Hiatt Steele, a one-time friend of the White House volunteer Kathleen Willey, who accused Mr Clinton of groping her.

The Willey case is the closest Mr Starr has come to unearthing evidence of possible witness intimidation by the White House.

Though thousands of pages of evidence were released by Congress from the Starr investigation into the Lewinsky

case, the bulk remains under seal, reportedly containing even more salacious parts of Ms Lewinsky's relationship with Mr Clinton, details of White House security, and information about other, so far unidentified women who may have been involved with Mr Clinton.

Ms Lewinsky's lawyers are concerned that she does not contradict the account she has given under oath, because this would arouse suspicions that

she did not tell the whole truth and would endanger her immunity agreement.

ABC wants to air the interview on 3 March, because that date is used to calculate ratings across US television. An interview with Linda Tripp, the woman who secretly taped Ms Lewinsky's confessions and passed the tapes to Mr Starr, gave CNN its highest figure this year - 2.5m viewers, double the average for February 1998.

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Siege ends, hands and heads held high

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND JOHN DAVISON

THEY CAME out one by one, their hands held high above their heads and with a photocopied portrait of their revered leader, Abdullah Ocalan, taped to their chests. Slowly and defiantly the 77 Kurds stepped single file into the broad, tree-lined West London avenue. There they were met by the police who had surrounded them for the past three days. They were in no rush.

The occupation of the Greek embassy in London ended shortly after 2pm yesterday, an hour after those inside said they were going to come out. It was calm, dignified, and crucially, given the experiences elsewhere in Europe in the past 48 hours, it was peaceful.

There were no guns, no police dogs, no SAS. The fears that those inside the building would rather die by their own hands than allow themselves to be taken into custody proved not to be the case. "They have highlighted the situation of the Kurds and made the world look," said one Kurdish protester in the street. "They have done their job."

The first sign that yesterday would be the day when the embassy occupiers would give up came early in the morning when one of them told a news organisation they were going to leave at 1pm, after making a statement to the media at noon. The noon deadline came and went with no statement, and no sign of anyone getting ready to leave the building. But 90 min-



The end of the Greek Embassy siege. Kurdish demonstrators are led away under arrest by police after surrendering

utes later there was a flurry of action in the street outside.

In moments, scores of police in riot gear moved towards the entrance and fanned out across the road. Behind them, a row of police coaches were made ready to take people away. At around 2.05 there was

movement from the front of the embassy as a man was led away. This was Babis Patsouris, the Greek caretaker at the embassy who was taken hostage by the Kurds when they stormed the building in the early hours on Tuesday morning. There was a pause before

the first of the Kurds then stepped from the building. He was followed by four others. There was another pause and then the rest came out.

They were met by police officers, two to each protester, who cautioned them, arrested them, searched them for

weapons and fastened their hands with plastic handcuffs. Their lawyer, the human rights specialist Gareth Peirce, liaised between the police and the Kurds. As they were driven away some raised their hands in the victory salute while others appeared close to tears. All

looked exhausted. They were taken to Charing Cross police station where they were charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

It emerged that their release had been secured by behind-the-scenes negotiations between Kurds both inside and

dignified when they came out," said Ms Clwyd.

She added: "I would not condone the siege of an embassy but I have known the Kurds for a long time and I know their situation in Turkey."

Ms Clwyd revealed that the delay in leaving the embassy had been caused by confusion over whether the occupiers would be charged when they came out. Demonstrators outside the building wanted a guarantee that those inside would not be charged. Realistically this was never going to happen. While police were unlikely to storm the building as long as there was little chance of the protesters either harming themselves or Mr Patsouris, there was never any talk of an amnesty.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the tense situation could continue for weeks or even months.

"We are on our guard about other things that could happen in London, and we have taken some prudent precautions," he said. "Clearly the way this has been co-ordinated throughout Europe and elsewhere it is a significant, ongoing, international situation."

The prospect of charges being levied against their fellow countrymen did not please the 500 protesters near the embassy last night. "This is not over. We are not going away until the charges against these people are dropped," said Zemir Hogri, a spokesman for the Kurdish Information Centre. "I think it is time for the British government to intervene."



Peter Macdiarmid

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Diaspora hear the word on Kurd TV

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

FROM THE poverty-stricken peasants in the mountains of Eastern Turkey to the relatively wealthy immigrant businessmen of north London, Kurds around the world retain a remarkably effective network of information and news.

Within hours of the arrest in Kenya of the rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, Kurds everywhere were listening in horror to what had happened to the man they call Apc, or Uncle.

There is little doubt this access to information was crucial in sparking the protests that recently engulfed Greek embassies and consulates across the world. At the centre of the Kurdish information network is the London-based but little-known TV channel, Med-TV, the only Kurdish broadcasting channel.

Founded secretly in 1994 the channel remains a lifeline for the world's largest stateless nation. "It is amazing," said one recent visitor to the Kurdish area of Eastern Turkey. "Sometimes the only electricity in the villages will be reserved for watching this channel on TV."

Broadcasting in four Kurdish languages as well as Turkish, Arabic and English, Med-TV usually goes out 18 hours a day,



Hikmet Tabak of London-based station, Med-TV

but in the past few days has been broadcasting almost without interruption.

"There are 35 to 40 million Kurds around the world so that is the number of potential viewers we have," said Hikmet Tabak, the founder and managing director of Med-TV.

Speaking from its head office in London, he continued: "We are tired of saying that the Kurdish language is forbidden.

The Kurds need television. We are like a drop of water in a fire. We give them a drop of comfort."

Mr Tabak said the channel covered a broad range of opinions and views from within the Kurdish community. It is funded

by a series of European-based trusts, individual donors and a small amount of advertising.

The annual turnover of Med-TV is around £1m, and its organisation is so complex it took Turkish investigators years to find the "paper trail" in an unsuccessful bid to close down what the Turkish authorities clearly regard as propaganda.

But Med-TV has also incurred the wrath of Britain's television watchdog, the Independent Television Commission. Whilst Mr Tabak insisted the channel was independent and was not in the control of the PKK, last year it was fined £90,000 by the ITC for three breaches of the impartiality requirements for news and current affairs.

"These regulations are designed for Europe, not for our culture," said Mr Tabak.

The channel is only one source of information; Kurdish newspapers published in Germany, where there are around 600,000 Kurds, are another.

Protesters outside the Greek Embassy in London have been keeping up to date with publications such as Ozgur Politika, which yesterday was urging its readers to: "Exercise your right to protest."

Turkey is accused of electric shock torture

BY IAN BURRELL

Home Affairs Correspondent

KURDS ARE being systematically subjected to electric shock treatments and other sophisticated tortures by the Turkish government, according to a damning new report.

Men and women are being suspended naked from the ceiling, hosed with cold water, and beaten on the soles of their feet, the two-year study reveals.

The shocking findings, by the British-based Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, will intensify the protests by Kurdish demonstrators which have taken place this week across the world. Kurds have occupied a dozen embassies and missions in protest at the arrest of the fugitive Kurdish guerrilla leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

The *Independent* has learnt that the Medical Foundation report, to be published next month, is based on a study of 78 Turkish patients who were examined at the Foundation's London headquarters between January 1997 and March 1998. All but two of the patients were of Kurdish origin.

Sirwan said her arms were tied with rope and she was suspended from the ceiling in what is called a "Palestinian hanging".

"While I was suspended they applied wires to my left foot and fingers and gave me electric shocks," she said. "Then they put wires on my breasts and on my genitals and threw cold

water on my body to make the electric shock treatment more effective." She said a doctor had been present during the torture to ensure she was kept alive.

Now living in London, Sirwan said: "I was released by the courts after 14 days and I knew I could never look at the world with the same eyes again."

Mr Ocalan, who was wanted

by Turkey as a traitor and a terrorist who had played a major role in a civil war that has claimed 29,000 lives, was captured in Nairobi and brought back to Turkey earlier this week.

The Foundation source said: "Clearly the concern must be that the treatment meted out in general to the Kurds will only be intensified in the case of Mr Ocalan."

Turkey's continued use of torture has attracted criticism from the United Nations Committee against Torture and the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

In response, the Turkish government has ordered compliance with regulations that forbid the use of torture and has set up human rights training courses for security personnel. A human rights minister has also been appointed.

Free Gr
ministers
ter fiasco

...and

Angry Ocalan humiliated by Turkey

AS THOUSANDS of Turkish troops poured into neighbouring Iraq to hunt Kurdish rebels yesterday, Turkish television showed more humiliating video footage of the captured Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Images released by the Turkish general staff showed the chief of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in a hood, being led to a high-security island prison in the Sea of Marmara after all other prisoners were removed. He was between two Turkish national flags, an image designed to delight Turks as much as it humiliates the Kurds.

In Ankara, the prime minister, Mr Bulent Ecevit, said the trial of Mr Ocalan would begin soon. The justice ministry said it would be held on the island, most likely to avoid any chance of his PKK supporters attempting a jailbreak.

His interrogation is believed to have begun, with growing world pressure on Turkey to avoid the torture routinely used by the military. Sources say Mr Ocalan could be tried by a state security court, which also includes military judges.

The prospect of a military involvement in Mr Ocalan's trial will deepen international concern over whether the PKK leader can expect a fair hearing. His Dutch lawyer was refused entry to Turkey and the European human rights court has questioned the credentials of Turkish security courts.

Mr Ecevit suggested yesterday that the PKK fighters might now like to surrender. "The capture of the chief terrorist has created an opportunity for the deceived young people of the mountains," he said. "If many young people surrender, our people and the par-

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

liament will embrace them". Turkey's systematic mistreatment of PKK activists means that few are likely to take up the offer.

But Turkish police were reported to be rounding up hundreds of Kurdish activists in the country, after violent protests over the Mr Ocalan's capture.

Police detained Ocalan supporters in Istanbul after vehicles were torched in hit-and-run attacks. A petrol bomb was hurled under a bus belonging to Mr Ecevit's Democratic Left Party but failed to detonate. Human rights activists said 700 Kurds had been held in Istanbul and south-eastern cities.

The Turkish government holds Mr Ocalan responsible for the deaths of more than 37,000 people in the 15-year war in the south-east between the army and the PKK he founded.

His Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq are the targets of the 4,000 Turkish troops backed by air support, who advanced over the border town of Culuk into the mountainous Kurdish region, which is outside Baghdad's control.

Turkish leaders insisted that the operation was planned before Mr Ocalan's capture in Kenya.

Turkey has made frequent incursions into Iraq to attack the PKK. The semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported that yesterday's operation was assisted by guerrillas of Massoud Barzani's Iraq-based Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The Iraqi Kurds depend on Turkish goodwill for their lucrative oil-smuggling business. Turkey is also the base for the prospect of a military involvement in Mr Ocalan's trial will deepen international concern over whether the PKK leader can expect a fair hearing. His Dutch lawyer was refused entry to Turkey and the European human rights court has questioned the credentials of Turkish security courts.

Three Greek ministers quit over fiasco

BY PAUL WOOD
in Athens



THE GREEK government was last night reeling from the forced resignation of three senior cabinet ministers blamed for the loss of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan in still unexplained circumstances.

Attempting to draw a line under the affair, the Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, sacked Theodoros Pangalos, his flamboyant Foreign Minister, famous for once describing Germany as "a giant with bestial strength and the mind of a child".

The Interior Minister, Alekos Papadopoulos, and the Public Order Minister, Philippou Petalikos, were also forced out.

One of the departing ministers suggested that a senior official from the Prime Minister's office had been present at meetings where key decisions about Mr Ocalan had been taken.

Mr Simitis may now face searching questions about whether he played any role in the operation to spirit the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) away to Kenya, where he fell into Turkish hands. "The Prime Minister has no responsibility whatsoever," the government spokesman said. "Each official is responsible for handling matters in his own department, that is obvious. The Prime Minister cannot be held responsible for dealing with these matters."

The government feared that hosting Mr Ocalan in Greece could have ignited a war with Turkey. Greece's ruling left-wing Pasok party has close links with rebel Kurds and many Greeks identify with Mr Ocalan as a modern-day embodiment of the Greeks who fought Turkish rule in the 19th century.

Thousands of Kurds demonstrated in Athens and the second city, Salouki, yesterday. The Athens stock exchange plunged 6 per cent before the resignations were announced, but appeared to rebound after the reshuffle. That was one comfort for a prime minister and government which had suffered a torrent of abuse over

KURD PROTESTS



Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader, between two Turkish flags at a prison in the Sea of Marmara. Reuters

Activists warned by Bonn

BY IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

KURDS IN Germany turned their fury on the Turkish community yesterday as the government in Bonn vowed to clamp down on the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party and deport activists.

A day after the shooting at the Israeli Consulate in Berlin, police issued arrest warrants for 25 demonstrators as the militia and opposition parties demanded draconian measures and mass expulsions.

The toughest fine was in evidence yesterday, police in Berlin banning a procession in memory of the three Kurds shot dead on Wednesday. In Bremen, a Turkish travel agency was fire-bombed. In Munster, masked Kurdish youths raided a Turkish teashop, while in Heilbronn the patrons of a Turkish club were attacked by a Kurdish gang armed with baseball bats. Four Turks were injured.

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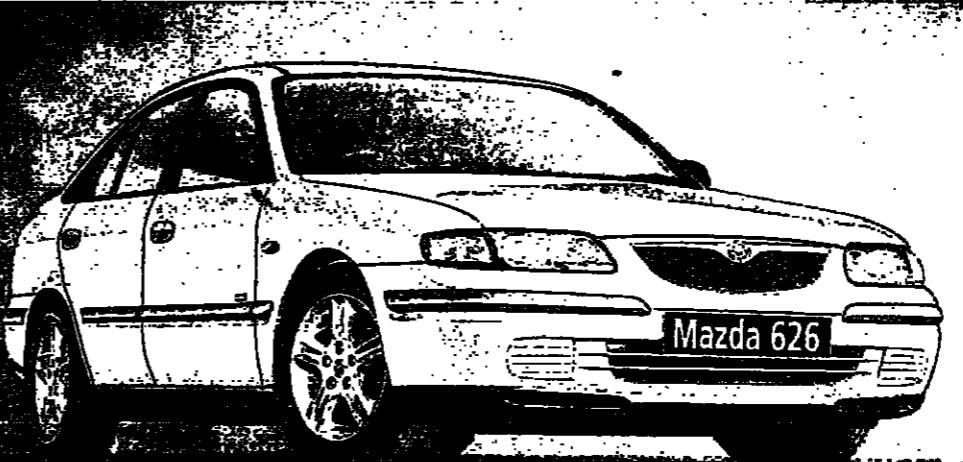
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Top footballer's father kidnapped

THE FATHER of Mexico's best-known footballer, Jorge Campos, pioneer of flamboyant goalkeepers' jerseys, has been kidnapped in the tourist resort of Acapulco. It was the latest in a wave of abductions that has swept Mexico over the past two years, making it one of the most dangerous places in the world to be rich or famous.

Police sources said left-wing guerrillas, who operate in the mountains above the resort

BY PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

and often finance themselves through kidnappings, may have been behind the abduction of Alvaro Campos. The guerrillas, from the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), emerged three years ago as "defenders of the poor" after a massacre of peasants by police, but they have returned to similar movements from the Sixties.

Mr Campos, believed to be in his fifties, had been watching a football match at the Jorge Campos football field - named in honour of his son - when at least half a dozen men armed with automatic rifles blocked his car. They forced him into a pick-up truck and disappeared, possibly into the mountains or the shanty towns over a hill from Acapulco.

Witnesses said the men were not masked but no one

recognised them. Members of the Campos family confirmed the kidnapping and said they feared for Mr Campos's life. They said they had so far had no contact with the kidnappers but were expecting to hear from them soon. They declined to say whether they would consider any ransom.

Jorge Campos, Mexico's top goalkeeper for several years who has also played as a striker for top clubs, became best

known for his electrifyingly coloured jerseys, shocking then but almost the norm now. He currently plays for the Chicago Fire in the United States' Major Soccer League as well as a Mexican side during the US off-season.

Friends said he was in Hong Kong for a tournament with the Mexican national side but rushed to Acapulco as soon as he heard the news.

Hundreds of people are ab-

duted each year in Mexico, including relatives of television stars, musicians or other celebrities. The son of one of the country's top *romero* ballad singers, Vicente Fernandez, was released last September after four months in captivity. His family, which reportedly paid several million dollars for his freedom, kept the kidnapping secret until he was free, often a condition laid down by the criminals.

■ Luis Reina Corbalan, a 60-year-old lawyer from Argentina, and son-in-law of Italy's last king, was found naked and strangled on Wednesday, with the belt of his bathrobe round his neck, in the bedroom of his luxury villa in the Mexican tourist town of Cuernavaca. His chauffeur, Juan Manuel Barrera, said he had discovered the body after arriving for work.

Mr Reina was married to Princess Marie Beatrice of Savoy, whose father was Italy's last king, Umberto II, before Italy was declared a republic soon after the Second World War. Umberto II had ruled for only one month after the abdication of his father, Victor Emmanuel III, in 1946.

Mr Reina, once an Argentinian diplomat to the United Nations, practised as a lawyer in Mexico and was also a law lecturer at the Autonomous University of Morelos.

Eritreans wait in fear for Goliath's air strikes

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Assab

THE REPEATED ground-shaking thump of Ethiopian bombs comes from more than 10 miles outside the city of Assab. But the residents of Eritrea's main port, on the Red Sea coast, take little comfort from the distance. One hit on the water system would wreck the city's only supply.

During a night attack on Tuesday, jeep-loads of Eritreans rushed into the desert to find large bomb craters near Assab's underground reservoir. Still burning, the powerful incendiary bombs have so far missed the pump house.

There is an atmosphere of siege. With the port, the oil refinery and all overland trade at a standstill, Assab is the most isolated - and strategically important - target in the war in the Horn of Africa between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"I can put on my radio and know what is going on in the rest of the world, but I have no idea what is happening in Eritrea," one resident said.

Until it was connected to a satellite link this week, Assab had been without telecommunications for eight months after Ethiopia cut off the telephones.



An Eritrean family waiting for a flight out of Assab to the capital, Asmara. Ethiopian bombing has given the port an atmosphere of siege

Amr Nabil/AFP

This week the conflict took a new twist when Assab became the target of Ethiopia fighter jets and Antonov planes, which fly high over the front-line defence about 70km west of the city. The port remains untouched, heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns and tanks.

An Ethiopian helicopter shot down last Sunday lies near the trenches that weave along the desert ridge at the border. The pilot's charred body remains in the wreckage; the other crew members have been incinerated. They do not deserve burial, says Colonel Alem Seged, who

was Badme, but now Ethiopia wants to annex the port," says Tesfai Tewolde, vice-chairman of Eritrean Shipping Lines. He says he is waiting for peace for business to start up again.

Assab, once a major transit station for cargo ships calling at the Red Sea ports in Yemen and Dubai, has been reduced to servicing only four ships a month. More than 90 per cent

of its business was lost when Ethiopia boycotted the port over a currency and access issue last March, and started using neighbouring Djibouti instead.

About 20,000 Ethiopian workers left, bars closed, and the machinery at the dock stands idle. Once cosmopolitan trucking town has become a military city. Land cruisers camouflaged

with tar and mud race the empty streets, and soldiers in fatigues fill the pavements. Hungry for custom, supermarkets depend on supplying the military with pasta, tinned fish, tomato paste and jam.

The city's remaining Ethiopians run some of the surviving businesses, but tension over the recent battles has made them fearful. The mil-

itary seized about 10 Ethiopian businessmen after the bombing raids started this week. "They think some of us are informers," one Ethiopian man said.

It is a curious feature of this war that Ethiopians have generally been allowed to continue a normal life in Eritrea, while Ethiopia has deported 52,000 Eritreans. Most were driven to the border and made to walk with

their few possessions across the no-man's land between the two countries. Idle cargo ships in Assab were turned into passenger vessels, shipping 1,500 at a time to ports in Masawa, further north.

In December and January alone, more than 25,000 deportees passed through Assab, many of whom had been born in Ethiopia.

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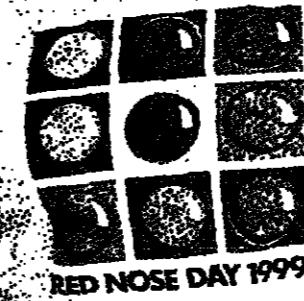
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Hippie guru to be spared execution

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

A FRENCH court said yesterday that the fugitive hippie guru Ira Einhorn, convicted of murder in the United States, may be extradited from France—but only under stringent conditions.

Since it seems unlikely that the state of Pennsylvania will accept the conditions—and in any case Einhorn intends to appeal the 20-year saga seems certain to go into several more chapters. A court in Bordeaux, reversing an earlier judgment, said that Einhorn, 58, could be returned to the US, where he has been convicted in his absence of murdering his girlfriend, Holly Maddux, in 1977.

But the judges ruled that he should be extradited only if he's promised a new trial. They also demanded a guarantee that, if found guilty a second time, he would not be executed—at his trial in 1993 he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Einhorn denies the murder charge and claims to be the victim of a plot by the US federal government to prevent him revealing secrets about Central Intelligence Agency plans for "psychic warfare".

Holly Maddux disappeared in 1977. Her decomposed body was found in a trunk in Einhorn's apartment in Philadelphia in 1981, while under investigation, he fled the US, travelling to Ireland, Britain, Sweden, and finally France.



Ira Einhorn yesterday



Multiple exposures showing this week's solar eclipse over Perth, Western Australia—the last one the southern hemisphere expects to see this millennium. John Chapman

Cellphones may have caused jet disaster

BY JAMES EAST
in Bangkok

AIR ACCIDENT investigators are trying to discover whether passenger use of mobile phones could be linked to the crash of Thai Airways plane last December in which 101 people died, including four Britons.

According to a Bangkok newspaper, *The Nation*, the

southern town of Surat Thani on 11 December, when it crashed in heavy rain and strong winds. It was the plane's third attempt at landing.

After the second aborted landing, the pilot informed passengers that he was heading to an alternative airport. Sources quoted by *The Nation* suggest that this could have triggered a flurry of calls from passengers to those waiting for them.

Dozens of mobile phones were found at the scene of the crash. *The Nation* says investigators are checking passenger telephone records. Use of mobile phones is banned during flights because their signals may interfere with aircraft systems.

Investigators have also been examining other possible causes, including the removal from Surat Thani of a crucial instrument landing system.

mobile phones is banned during flights because their signals may interfere with aircraft systems.

Investigators have also been examining other possible causes, including the removal from Surat Thani of a crucial instrument landing system.

PETER TERRYN has been arrested at least 20 times over the years, but the latest episode was bad even by his standards.

He suffered a week of solitary confinement, but the 35-year-old political activist had one argument which helped to clear him of the charges of fire-bombing Belgian burger bars and destroying a McDonald's. Mr Terryn is a meat eater.

After a lengthy interrogation he was released to return to Weik, the organisation he runs in Antwerp. Also freed, for the time being anyway, were two teenage girls, Lyndsey Van Keer and Anja Hermans, although Ms Van Keer has confessed that she was responsible for the largest and most serious arson, in August last year.

The bizarre case has thrown up more questions than it answers. Is Belgium in the grip of an orchestrated campaign of eco-terrorism? Or has its judicial system simply been led a merry dance by two 19-year-old girls and a group of campaigners, whose other activities include the theft of garden gnomes?

Within a few months last year the burger bar attacks in Belgium grew from a minor irritant to a full-scale alarm, involving an array of police forces and the security services. The attacks for which the Belgium Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility reached double figures, culminating in the burning of a McDonald's branch at Puurs, near Antwerp. Early theories tied the actions, via Internet links, to Britain, the ALF's birthplace.

But the targets and the nature of the campaign marked it out as a distinctively Belgian affair. In the most macabre incident, human remains were found outside a McDonald's in the Ixelles district of Brussels.

The reaction of the authorities was to pull in all the likely suspects. They were Mr Terryn and the girls. In a run-

down shopfront in northern Antwerp, the aims of the group were explained by Mr Terryn, a former radio journalist, surrounded by walls painted orange, blue and yellow, and adorned with murals of the Guevara.

For 12 months, this has been the home of Weik, a group started by Ms Hermans two years ago and funded by the city of Antwerp in an effort to reach out to young people. The group is described by police as a bunch of political agitators.

Weik's activities include street theatre, jumble sales



McDonald's: Target of eco-warriors in Belgium

and a Friday-night "vegetarian info kitchen", at which food is followed by political discussion.

But Weik has spawned other groups less popular with the authorities. They include the "bicycle guerrillas", who mass up to 100 cyclists to block crossroads in Antwerp, highlighting their campaign for free public transport.

Mr Terryn sees conflict with the police as a fact of life. Neither girl is present; it is a condition of Ms Van Keer's bail that she has no further contact with the collective.

"The people the authorities target are either young people, immigrants or people on the streets," says Mr Terryn. "We try to talk to them and

organisations representing them."

But media-friendly Weik is game for more than talking.

When foreign campaigners hit on a publicity stunt involving the "kidnapping" of garden gnomes, and their "release" in the forests, the local media contacted Weik to find out if they knew of anything similar in Belgium.

"When we said, 'No,' they asked if we could organise it," says Mr Terryn. "We said, 'Of course we can.'"

If gnome stunts posed little threat to the Belgian state, links with the ALF raised more eyebrows. Weik has hosted a discussion involving the ALF, and set up a support group when the girls were arrested.

Mr Terryn insists that this is the sole extent of Weik's involvement with the ALF.

There are, he argues, several reasons why Lyndsey Van Keer may have admitted to the arson attack at Puurs. She may be guilty; or she may be trying to protect someone else. If so, she may withdraw her confession at a later stage.

This may be informed speculation or a piece of disinformation aimed at his old adversaries in the police. And it has shaken the authorities.

In the wake of the scandal over the bungled police handling of the case of Marc Dutroux, who is awaiting trial over the murder of several children, Belgians have rarely been less willing to trust their politicians or the authorities. Hence the alarm at the growth of direct action campaigns and anxiety about Weik.

As Mr Terryn puts it: "Either the ALF is a well-organised group here, in which case they have not solved the crime. Or the entire police force has been mobilised to arrest two 19-year-old girls.

"That may be more scary for the police, because there are a lot of 19-year-olds, and you can't control all of them."

STEPHEN CASTLE

EUROPEAN TIMES

ANTWERP

'Bicycle guerrillas' of Belgian eco-war

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Nomura denies London layoffs

THE INVESTMENT bank, Nomura International, last night denied reports of planned heavy redundancies at its London offices. The speculation was sparked by Wednesday's announcement that Nomura's chief economist, Bronwyn Curtis, had resigned, and the disclosure yesterday that three of her staff had been made redundant.

A spokeswoman for Nomura International, which has 1,300 City employees, said: "There is no wholesale letting go of people, and there is nothing planned at the moment." But she added: "We never say never." The spokeswoman admitted that two economists in Ms Curtis's department - Michael Derkis and James Mitchell - and a junior member of support staff had been made redundant. A total of 70 staff had been let go between September and December.

News Corp in attack on costs

 NEWS CORPORATION, the media conglomerate run by Rupert Murdoch, has set a target of cutting 3 per cent off operating costs across all businesses. Lachlan Murdoch, appointed senior executive vice-president of News Corp last week and favourite to succeed his father, will be in charge of implementing the programme.

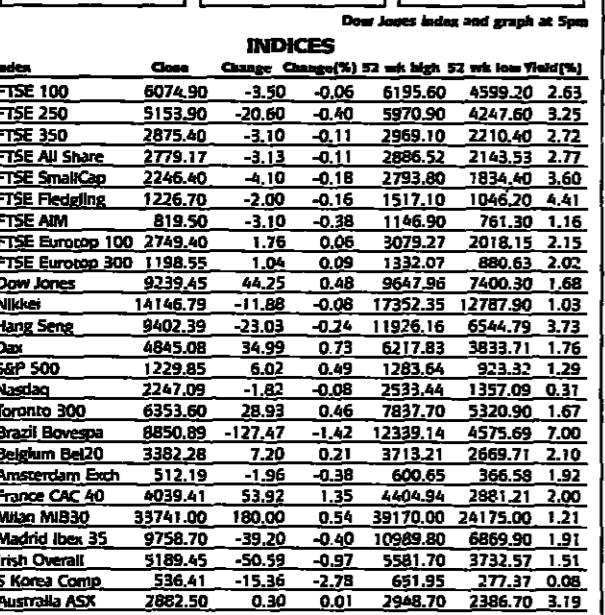
The cuts will affect all News Corp's businesses, including the Times and Sun newspapers, Fox Broadcasting and HarperCollins. In the quarter to December, News Corp's profits after exceptional costs slid to \$395m (£240m) from \$396m in the period in 1997.

Abbey launches euro mortgage

ABBEY NATIONAL yesterday launched a euro mortgage for UK customers at a variable interest rate of 4.57 per cent directly linked to euro money markets. The euro rate is set at Europlus plus 1.5 per cent and is reviewed quarterly. The mortgage is available only to customers paid in euros, or in currencies fixed against the euro, up to a maximum loan value of 70 per cent. There is a £500 booking fee.

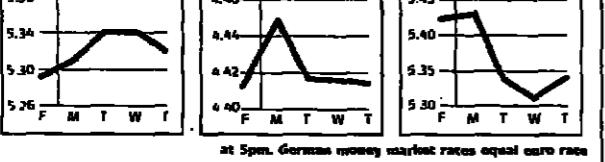
STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100		DOW JONES		NIKKEI	
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low
FTSE 100	6074.90	-3.50	-0.06	6195.60	4599.20
FTSE 250	5153.90	-20.60	-0.40	5870.90	4247.60
FTSE 350	2875.40	-10.11	-0.36	2965.10	2210.40
FTSE All Share	2779.17	-3.13	-1.11	2688.52	2143.33
FTSE SmallCap	2246.40	-10.18	-0.45	2793.80	1824.40
FTSE MidCap	1236.70	-2.00	-0.16	1517.10	1046.20
FTSE AIM	819.50	-3.10	-0.38	1146.80	761.30
FTSE Europe 100	2749.40	-1.76	-0.06	3078.27	2018.15
FTSE Europe 300	1198.55	-1.04	-0.09	1332.07	880.63
Dow Jones	9239.45	-44.25	-0.48	9647.95	7400.30
Nikkei	14146.79	-11.88	-0.08	17352.35	12787.90
Hang Seng	9402.39	-23.03	-0.24	11826.16	6564.79
Dax	4845.08	-34.99	-0.73	6317.83	3832.71
S&P 500	1298.85	-6.02	-0.49	1383.64	933.32
Nasdaq	2247.09	-1.82	-0.08	2533.44	1357.09
Toronto 300	6353.60	-28.93	-0.46	7837.70	5320.90
Brazil Bovespa	8850.89	-127.47	-1.42	12338.14	4575.69
Belgium Bel20	3382.28	-7.20	-0.21	3719.21	2669.71
Amsterdam Exch	512.19	-1.96	-0.39	600.65	366.58
France CAC 40	4059.41	-53.82	-1.35	4404.94	2881.21
Milan MIB30	33741.00	-180.00	-0.54	38170.00	24175.00
Madrid Ibex 35	9758.70	-39.20	-0.40	10689.80	6869.90
Irish Overall	5189.45	-50.98	-0.97	5581.70	3732.57
S Korea Composite	536.41	-15.36	-2.78	651.95	377.07
Australia ASX	2882.50	0.30	0.01	2948.70	2386.70



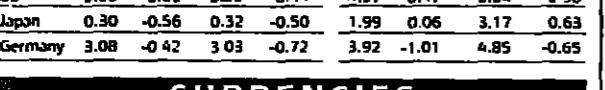
INTEREST RATES

SHORT STERLING		UK 10 YEAR GILT		US LONG BOND	
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low
Short Sterling	5.38	-0.01	-0.2%	5.50	5.25
UK 10 Year Gilt	5.34	-0.01	-0.2%	5.45	5.25
US Long Bond	5.30	-0.01	-0.2%	5.45	5.25



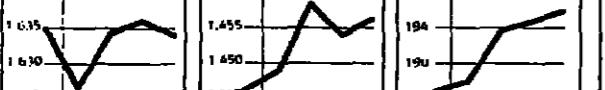
BOND YIELDS

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CURRENCIES

S/E		G/E		N/E	
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low
S/E	1.640	-0.01	-0.06	1.650	1.630
G/E	1.460	-0.01	-0.06	1.470	1.450
N/E	1.98	-0.01	-0.05	2.00	1.96



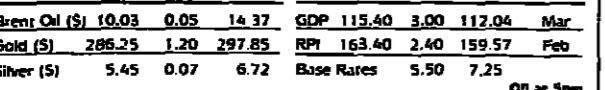
OTHER INDICATORS

POUND		DOLLAR		CURRENCY	
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low
Pound	1.6241	-0.046	-0.28	1.6379	1.6105
Dollar	1.4565	+0.13	0.90%	1.4702	1.4279
Euro	1.4565	+0.13	0.90%	1.4702	1.4279
Yen	151.97	+1.19	0.70%	159.81	126.50
E Index	101.30	0.00	0.10	105.10	98.80
S Index	106.50	+0.10	0.90%	108.80	102.80



TOURIST RATES

AUSTRALIA (\$)		MEXICO (nuevo peso)		NETHERLANDS (guilder)	
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low
Australia (\$)	2.4864	-0.01	-0.04	2.5139	2.4681
Austria (schillings)	18.40	-0.01	-0.05	18.50	18.30
Belgium (francs)	57.03	-0.01	-0.02	57.10	56.90
Canada (\$)	2.3875	-0.01	-0.04	2.4000	2.3750
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8168	-0.01	-0.12	0.8300	0.7900
Denmark (krone)	10.56	-0.01	-0.01	10.60	10.50
Finland (markka)	8.4225	-0.01	-0.01	8.4500	8.3500
France (francs)	9.2741	-0.01	-0.01	9.3000	9.1500
Germany (marks)	2.7748	-0.01	-0.01	2.7900	2.7500
Greece (drachma)	455.55	-0.01	-0.01	457.00	453.00
Hong Kong (\$)	12.32	-0.01	-0.01	12.40	12.20
Ireland (pounds)	1.1110	-0.01	-0.01	1.1120	1.1100
India (rupees)	62.58	-0.01	-0.01	62.60	62.50
Israel (shekels)	6.1318	-0.01	-0.01	6.1320	6.1310
Italy (lira)	2749	-0.01	-0.01	2750	2740
Japan (yen)	190.57	-0.01	-0.01	190.60	190.50
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.9760	-0.01	-0.01	5.9760	5.9750
Malta (lira)	0.6128	-0.01	-0.01	0.6128	0.6125



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

William Hill float shunned by investors

BY NIGEL COPE AND FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE FLOTATION of William Hill, Britain's second-largest bookmaker, experienced an embarrassing stumble at the final hurdle yesterday when it was forced to cut the price of just £20m on the deal, excluding expenses, compared with previous estimates of £900m.

The price of the shares has been cut to £1.35, well below the expected range of £155-175p.

The reduction values the business at just £405m, or £78m including debts. This compares with previous forecasts of £900m. The price cut means

to buyers' strike among investors.

The poor response to the bookbuilding exercise undertaken by financial advisers Warburg Dillon Reed was attributed to a lack of demand for anything other than large, blue chip stocks.

However, institutions who

spurned the offer said the presentations by the William Hill management team had been "pretty unconvincing". One said: "They did not seem very clear on the reason they want-

ed to list. One was left with the impression that it was because

Nomura wanted to sell having decided they were not going to make much more progress."

Another fund manager said: "William Hill as a business is not desperately exciting. They had a good period on the back of the World Cup but where is future growth to come from?"

There were also suggestions

yesterday that William Hill, which last year had sales of around £1.5bn, has experienced

poor trading in the past few months. This period was not included in the group's listing particulars which revealed operating profits of £75.2m in the 39 weeks to 29 September. The company denied a slump in trading yesterday.

During the flotation process

William Hill has focused on its strong brand name and reliable earnings outlook from betting and gaming. However, a sharp fall in consumer spending in the past few months may have taken its toll in a market that is

traditionally less exposed to

the vagaries of discretionary spending.

The price cut may be a blow to smaller investors whose allocation was last week doubled to 20 per cent of the capital. They had to subscribe to a minimum of £1,000 in shares and it is thought that many subscribed for more because they thought their holding would be scaled back due to strong demand.

Now they will be buying more shares than they expected.

Deals in the stock are due to start on 1 March.

Halifax to make £1.5bn handout

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

THE HALIFAX yesterday announced plans for a capital reconstruction that will enable it to hand £1.5bn - roughly half its surplus capital - to shareholders while keeping its powder dry for further selective acquisitions in its core mortgage market. The move means

it should not weaken our resolve to develop our personal finance business; they should not inhibit our ability to build the Halifax brand; and we have to ask ourselves, do we really believe that the synergies being claimed can be delivered without damaging the business." He said: "These are not easy hurdles."

Mr Crosby said Halifax was setting a target of reducing its tier one capital ratio from 12.2 per cent to the 7 to 8 per cent range common to most banks within "two to three years".

The group would be seeking authorisation for further share buybacks. However, he said the preferred route was to get to that target "first and foremost by acquisitions".

Sir Richard Sykes, Halifax's chairman, said that growth in existing products and a strong drug pipeline would boost turnover and profits despite the collapse in sales of two of its blockbusters.

There is life after Zantac for Glaxo

ABOUT FIFTEEN years ago, the City editor of this newspaper undertook an interview with Sir Paul Girod, then chairman and chief executive of Glaxo. An anti-stomach ulcer drug called Zantac was about to be launched onto the US market. Even then it was clear that this product had vast potential and that by extension, Glaxo shares were a roaring buy.

Unhappily, the then reporter failed to follow his own advice, and when he next looked at the share price, it had doubled. Damn missed the boat, he thought. But actually, this was only just the beginning. Zantac was to become the world's best ever selling prescribed drug, and since then the shares have risen twenty-fold, substantially helped along the way by a merger with Wellcome. Anyone not invested in Glaxo Wellcome by now surely has well and truly missed the boat. Or is it still worth trying to climb aboard?

In those fifteen years, Zantac and Zovirax, the blockbuster that Wellcome brought to the party, have come and gone, with sales exceeding all forecasts along the way. In the



OUTLOOK

meantime Glaxo has been working hard at putting its eggs in different baskets, so as to cushion earnings from expiry of patents on these two products.

Plainly, the strategy has worked.

Despite what Glaxo's chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, calls an "unbelievable year" in which the patents expired on both its wonder drugs, Glaxo has kept sales moving ahead and profits haven't collapsed. Sales of non-Zantac and Zovirax products now account for 86 per cent of the total. Sales have also been bolstered by new developments, such

as aggressive TV advertising in the US. Growth from new products is so encouraging that Sir Richard can now afford to match the promise of double-digit sales and earnings growth made by his archrival Ian Leshchy, head of SmithKline Beecham.

Since there is no new Zantac or Zovirax in the pipeline, growth will in future have to come from a wider range of drugs, particularly in the respiratory and HIV franchises. It would obviously be unrealistic to expect the Glaxo Wellcome share price to continue outperforming in the way it has, but if new products maintain their early promise, the post-Zantac era looks like being just as successful as the one that went before.

Gucci rumpus

QUESTION. Which country has the most heavily regulated financial markets in the world? To believe the scare stories and comment in some of our rivals, you might think it is the UK with its new Financial Services

Authority - depicted by some as a bureaucratic monster destined to sink the City under a mountain of red tape and oppressive rule-making.

But actually it is the United States, land of the free, where literally tens of thousands of people find gainful employment crawling all over any financial transaction that moves. On top of them there is an even larger army of busy bodies ensuring that their organisations comply with the rules. And on top of them there is a whole platoon of lawyers, whose job it is to safeguard the interests of paying clients by ensuring that others abide by the rules. In the UK we try our hardest, but when it comes to regulation, we've got nothing on the US.

The same point might be made about hostile takeovers. The easiest place in the world to make a hostile takeover bid is not, perhaps surprisingly given its free market rhetoric, the United States, but the UK. In the US it has become virtually impossible to make hostile bids. Highly effective poison-pill arrangements that would be regarded as a

gross infringement of shareholder rights in this country abound in the US, as they do almost everywhere apart from here; those that don't have them can buy them off the shelf.

Meanwhile, deep in the airbrushed, "darling you look wonderful" world of the designer handbags and £100 scarfs things have turned ugly.

LVMH has been accused of "takeover by stealth" after its chairman Bernard Arnault built a 34.4 per cent stake in Gucci with no suggestion that he would make a full bid. Yesterday Gucci put the designer boot in by issuing a thumping 37 million new shares, diluting Arnault out of sight and pledging to issue more if he increases his stake. It's a catwalk stand-off.

None of this could happen here, but Gucci is quoted in Amsterdam and New York - not Britain. In Holland there are no "trigger rules" which force a predator to make an offer for the entire share capital once the stake goes over 20.9 per cent. Instead the Dutch allow companies to defend themselves by issuing new

shares which dilute the predator's voting rights. Sacre bleu!

If it didn't come from Bernard Arnault, this expression of outrage might carry a little more weight. Mr Arnault has made a habit of trying to garner control of businesses without paying for the whole lot. The idea is to use a powerful minority position to put his placemen on the board and have an input on strategy at arms length.

That is exactly what he was suggesting at Gucci, where he was nominating three new directors and some "commercial proposals" for the board to consider. As with the Guinness-Grand Metropolitan deal, which Mr Arnault tried to block, this is only heading in one direction.

To the courts. Thank goodness for Britain's quaint old system of Takeover Panel and Code.

Halifax largess

A YEAR ago, Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, was telling the City not to worry, because within twelve months there would be a big deal to

earn some fees on. Twelve months later, with his 67th birthday approaching and after apparently talking to everyone in sight, from the Royal Bank of Scotland to Barclays and the Prudential, it appears he has finally given up on dreams of empire and resigned himself to the more useful but undoubtedly less exciting task of keeping shareholders sweet.

To that end, clever old Halifax has come up with a wizard wheeze for shrinking the group's capital twice as rapidly as the old fashioned method of buying back shares, thereby halving the period during which it will have to put up with those irritating questions about what it might do with its surplus cash.

As a way of propping up the share price, buying back shares has proved to be rather less effective than investment bankers claimed it would be. The effect on the share price has been short-lived, and because Halifax's share register is still dominated by a legion of small holders, it has also been difficult to do on the kind of scale the Halifax needs if it is to fix its surplus capital problem anytime soon.



Joachim Milberg: The UK Rover plant must show 'presentable results' by spring

BMW chief sets a deadline for Rover

BMW'S NEW chairman has spoken for the first time of his plans for Germany's third biggest car maker, saying that the Longbridge Rover plant in the UK needs to show "presentable results" by spring. He also dismissed recent takeover speculation as "without foundation".

Professor Joachim Milberg, chairman of the board of management of the German car giant, told its employee newsletter *BMW Zeitung* that vehicle sales this year will be "comparable" with 1998's.

On the loss-making Rover operation, Mr Milberg said that management is making changes proposed by a study on how to turn the unit around, including the complete integration of Rover with the BMW

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

group, as well as raising efficiency and productivity levels.

"Investment and the introduction of flexible working hours are just the beginning of a series of measures," he said. "All of these ... should no longer be talked about but need to be implemented quickly."

BMW will also try to boost sales of Rover models, especially of the Rover 200 and 400.

Bernd Fischerrieder was replaced by Mr Milberg this month after failing to make a profit at Rover since its purchase in 1994. The management change touched off speculation by analysts and investors that BMW might be acquired in whole or part by another car-

maker. General Motors, Ford and Volkswagen are all considered possible suitors.

"One thing's certain - we want to continue to remain independent," Mr Milberg declared. "The Quandt family [majority shareholders] has always clearly stated its affinity to BMW and has squashed all these [takeover] rumours."

He went on: "I am convinced that the difficult situation, which we are in ... because of Rover cars, will be overcome quickly."

Mr Milberg said 1998 sales of BMW vehicles were more than \$3bn German marks, a growth of more than 8 per cent, which was "excellent". He said: "I am convinced that with our series of products, we are well positioned to achieve comparable results."

UK presses France to open electricity market

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday stepped up the pressure on the French to open their electricity market to competition from UK suppliers.

Speaking as the first phase of electricity liberalisation began across Europe, the energy minister, John Battle, urged the European Commission to get tough on states that lagged behind. The Electricity Association, the UK trade body, accused some member states of "stalling".

One of the Government's priorities will be an overhaul of the way the interconnector between Britain and France operates. Ministers are angry that the current contract between Electricité de France and National Grid guarantees that power only flows in one direction. Last year Edf, state-owned monopoly, supplied nearly 6 per cent of the electricity market in England

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Business Editor

and Wales through the 2,000 megawatt interconnector.

Although the contract only expires in 2002, Mr Battle is keen that talks begin soon on a new agreement that provides UK generators with more access to the interconnector.

The Government could have made this a prerequisite of allowing Edf's £1.6bn takeover of London Electricity. But the European Commission refused to hand authority for vetting the merger back to London, a referee ministers still smart over.

From today EU states are required to open up just over a quarter of their electricity markets to competition, allowing large industrial users freedom to shop around. By 2003 at least a third of Europe's electricity

Dow Jones launches new index for Net stocks

INVESTORS WANTING to track the boom in electronic commerce have a new tool. Dow Jones, the US financial information services group, yesterday introduced a new index to track Internet stocks, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange

change will launch an index option based on it.

The Dow Jones Internet Index includes 40 stocks, and seeks to represent 80 per cent of the sector's capitalisation. "The actual number of components may fluctuate as the sec-

tor continues to mature," said Dow Jones.

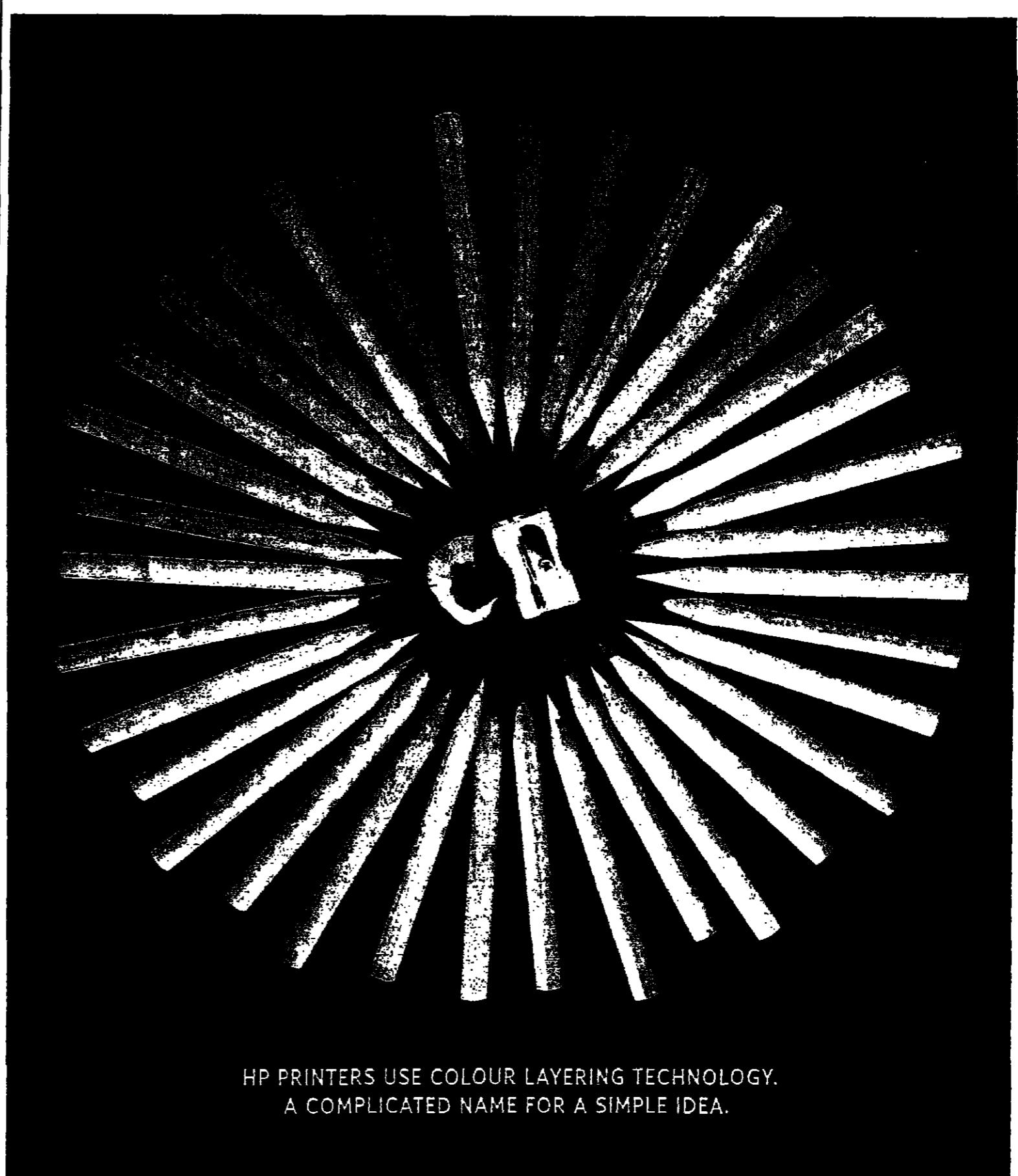
It has two sub-indexes: one for Internet commerce, which includes bookseller Amazon.com, broker E TRADE and Yahoo!, the Internet portal service; and the other for Internet services,

which includes Netscape, the browser company, and America Online.

Dow Jones has calculated historical data for the index, which shows that it stood at 70 in September and accelerated to nearly 230 before

falling back to 170 yesterday.

Meanwhile, shares in Microsoft fell by more than 3 per cent yesterday on concerns about the US technology sector and the outcome of the competition trial. The price has fallen by 17.5 per cent this month.



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**HEWLETT
PACKARD**
Expanding Possibilities

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Brown & Jackson (I)	195.308m (154.725m)	22.049m (13.251m)	12.29 (8.59)	- (-)	-	-
British Business Systems (B)	1.3338m (1.5138m)	322.289m (48.506m)	-140p (14.29)	+1.29	28/2	-
English & Overseas Prop (F)	13.810m (13.810m)	4.000m (3.000m)	4.00 (3.00)	10p (7.50)	the 16th	02/03/99
Glaxo Wellcome (F)	7.982m (7.982m)	1.703m (0.608m)	51.19 (62.50)	1.50	20/03/99	01/03/99
Hallcrest (F)	- (+)	2.671m (2.668m)	47.50 (43.30)	20.25 (17.50)	10.05.99	01/03/99
Hastor Holdings (I)	3.268m (1.773m)	*1.762m (1.645m)	19.95p (10.40p)	+1	-	-
Imperial Chemical Industries (I)	2b (2b)	0.346m (1.165m)	19.50p (-)	+23.10p (28.50p)	18.50p (-)	30.04.99
Rank Group (F)	(F - Final) (I - Interim) (Q1 - Quarterly) (SP - Split Period) (N0 - Nine Months)	- Before Exceptionals				

Fund	Self	Buy	++	TM	Incr.	%	Fund	Self	Buy	++	TM	Incr.	%	Fund	Self	Buy	++	TM	Incr.	%	Fund	Self	Buy	++	TM	Incr.	%	
ABDI Private Fund	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ABDI Private Fund	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ABDI Private Fund	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ABDI Private Fund	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corporate Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Corporate Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Corporate Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Corporate Growth	114.42	112.38	-2.05	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equity Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Growth	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Growth	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Growth Income	99.03	103.35	-0.53	0.68	0.00	0.00	Growth Income	99.03	103.35	-0.53	0.68	0.00	0.00	Growth Income	99.03	103.35	-0.53	0.68	0.00	0.00	Growth Income	114.42	112.38	-2.05	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
All Growth Trust Ltd	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	All Growth Trust Ltd	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	All Growth Trust Ltd	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	All Growth Trust Ltd	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
4 Battlebridge Funds, London SW1 2BBL																												
Tel: 0171 349 2079																												
American General	367.16	367.38	-0.24	0.17	0.00	0.00	American General	367.16	367.38	-0.24	0.17	0.00	0.00	American General	367.16	367.38	-0.24	0.17	0.00	0.00	American General	114.42	112.38	-2.05	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
American Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Income	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Income	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
American Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	American Savings	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa	94.47	94.48	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	Axa	94.47	94.48	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	Axa	94.47	94.48	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	Axa	114.42	112.38	-2.05	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Life	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Life & Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life & Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life & Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Life & Pensions	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Pensions	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Retail	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Retail	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Retail	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Retail	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Savings	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Total Returns	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Total Returns	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Total Returns	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Total Returns	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Unit Trusts	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Worldwide	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Worldwide Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Pensions	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Pensions	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Worldwide Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Savings	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Savings	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts (excl. Pensions)	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts (excl. Pensions)	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts (excl. Pensions)	154.14	151.11	-2.43	3.18	0.00	0.00	Axa Worldwide Unit Trusts (excl. Pensions)	125.00	123.99	-1.95	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
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MAIN MOVERS

Doubts over Saudi deal give BAe rough ride

SHARES IN British Aerospace suffered in Tornado-style manoeuvres as the stock market fretted over stories that the crucial Al-Yamamah defence contracts with Saudi Arabia had been frozen.

In heavy trading BAe shares swung from an 11p gain to a 45p loss; they closed down 18p at 42p.

Although the Ministry of Defence denied that the arms-for-oil deal had been frozen or postponed, the market continued to nurse nagging doubts about the contract's future. An MoD spokesman said: "Both the UK and Saudi governments are totally committed to the agreement."

The story surfaced in Saudi Arabia. It was claimed that the Saudi government had asked that the contracts should be frozen at a care and maintenance level at meetings with defence secretary George Robertson earlier this month.

The alleged Saudi request stemmed from the economic difficulties the Arab kingdom was encountering. Any shelving of the 20-year deal, worth

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

£118m, beating the previous £102m record established last March. Yesterday's volume was just below 1 billion.

Supporting shares gave ground, with even the small cap index moving into negative territory, off 4.1% to 2,447.

Cadbury Schweppes, the sweets group, was again among the Footsie front-runners, gaining a further 35p to 1,087.5p as the Hershey merger story continued its mouthwatering progress. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and SG Securities were among houses to join the buy chorus.

Norwich Union felt the weight of USCA caution, falling 10.25p to 451.75p, but Legal & General, unchanged at 863.5p, resisted.

Rio Tinto, the mining group, was raffled by a rogue trade, subsequently cancelled. The shares were at one time up 8p on the misfire, ending 16p higher at 780p. Imperial

illustrated by an AGB survey. Tescos lost 3.75p to 174p. Unilever, off 7p at 60p, was unsettled by DKB caution.

Halifax, on its results and cash handout, rose 19.5p to 791p. Glaxo Wellcome's figures lifted the shares 21p to 2,041p. Abbey National, expected to post a 20 per cent profit gain to £1.55bn today, firmed 22p to 1,336p.

Profit caution lowered CPL

Aromas, the flavours and fragrances group, 18.5p to 64.5p. Packaging group John Waddington lost 12.5p to 186.5p. Losses at Danica Business Systems cut the shares 15.5p to 72.5p.

Limelight, the bathroom and kitchen group, sunk 45p to 39p as its bid talks, thought to be with Anglian, were called off. But ITG, the Irish computer and telecoms group, produced its expected deal, paying up to £2.1m in cash and shares for Computercall, a credit card services company. The shares settled at 35p.

Packaging group David S Smith was the subject of intense speculation. The shares fell 11.5p, beating the previous 10.25p record established last March. Yesterday's volume was just below 1 billion.

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With the next Footsie review due next month, calculations are already being made about likely changes. On present form computer groups Mysis, which held an investment meeting in New York last night, and Seag would return to the exclusive club, replacing Williams and Tomkins.

The company is run by 41-year-old Mark Blandford, who recently sold his chain of betting shops to the Totte.

Nethet has an Alderney betting licence and is based on the Channel Islands.

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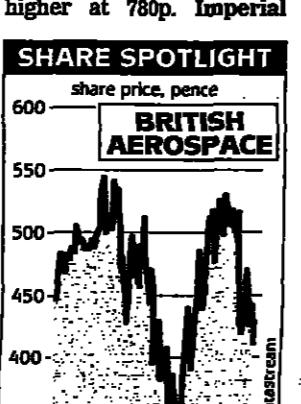
BAe's results next week are expected to show further scars from the Saudi deal. At the time of its interim figures it was thought to have suffered a £50m shortfall.

The contracts were signed in 1985 by the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, and have subsequently been updated. They have already involved more than 120 Tornado fighter jets as well as Hawk trainers and various military vehicles.

General Electric Co, selling its Marconi unit to BAe, also had a volatile session, swinging between a 21p fall and a 10.5p gain but ending of 11.5p at 515.5p in busy trading.

Footsie, too, was on a seesaw, moving between a 71.3-point fall and a 44.9 gain, ending off just 3.5 at 6,074.9. Today's futures and options expiry caused some anxiety. The late rally was helped by a firm New York opening and the Halifax cash handouts.

Last month the stock market, with daily turnover frequently topping 1 billion shares, not surprisingly enjoyed its busiest-ever month. In 20 days' trading shares worth £265m changed hands, with domestic stocks accounting for



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BY PETER THAL LARSEN

IS THE worst really over for Rank? The troubled leisure conglomerate has been in decline for most of the past decade. But yesterday, for the first time in years, Rank was able to indicate that trading was looking up.

Douglas Yates, the acting chief executive before Mike Smith, a former Ladbrooke director, takes over in April, said blockbuster films such as *Shakespeare in Love* and *A Boy in the Woods* had boosted visits to its Odeon cinemas. Like-for-like sales in the Hard Rock Cafe chain had also improved. Bookings at the Butlins holiday camps were up 17 per cent. "It's very early days, we're only six weeks into the year," Mr Yates said. "But I'm feeling a bit brighter than I was before."

The suggestion that Rank might finally be turning the corner was greeted with surprise in the City, where the shares jumped by more than 10 per cent to 226.25p. Investors were also relieved that profits for the year to December had turned out to be no worse than expected.

Nevertheless, that could not disguise the fact that the figures were pretty dreadful. In the second half of the year, profits fell

RANK: AT A GLANCE					
Market value: £1.73bn, share price 226.25p (+22.5p)					
Trading record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998					
Turnover (£bn)	2.20	2.24	2.08	2.01	2.06
Pretax profit (£m)	284.00	564.00	65.00	260.00	-51.00
Earnings per share (p)	28.70	26.60	24.10	26.50	-17.00
Dividends per share (p)	13.30	13.50	17.00	18.00	18.00

in every single one of Rank's divisions. Butlins, which suffered from the poor summer weather and the closure of a number of sites for construction work, reported a 21.5 per cent drop in second-half profits. The Deluxe video duplication business, which mismanaged a huge order for videos of the hit film *Titanic*, saw profits slide by 13.2 per cent.

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Irish making flat contest a bumper issue

IT TOOK the Cheltenham Gold Cup years to establish itself as jump racing's premier event, while the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe started life as a seller, but there have been no such problems for the Festival Bumper. Instituted just seven years ago, the race is now one of the strongest betting heats of the three-day meeting and is discussed with as much animation as the Gold Cup itself.

Well, it is in Ireland, anyway. In Britain, the idea of a National Hunt race without any obstacles is still one which many racegoers find impossible to grasp. Across the water, though, bumpers are a serious business. On Ladbrokes Hurdle day at Leopardstown last month, the betting was fiercer on the bumper than it was on the feature race, and the Festival Bumper has quickly been taken to Irish hearts. It is not just another race in which they have an excellent chance of success. It is often seen as a chance to pay the bills for the entire week.

The most plausible reason for the popularity of NH Flat races in Ireland, and the Festival race in particular, is offered by Paul Cashman, of the Cork bookmakers Liam Cashman. "It's about dreams," he says. "The horses in the race could be anything like Florida Pearl (the 1997 winner), and Montelado who won and won the Supreme Novice Hurdle the year after. Everyone thinks they've got a star; and they want to put the hard cash down."

Cork opened a book on the

BY GREG WOOD

race last week, the first British bookie ever to do so at such an early stage. Before it goes to their heads, though, it should be pointed out that Cashman and many other Irish layers, started betting on the Bumper last autumn.

"This year's race is far and away the most punt-on race of the entire Festival," he says, "and it's the best betting race since the Bumper was started. Back to when it began, I have always had a heavily-loaded bet for one horse, like Tattersalls Square Wither Or Which or Muckmegg. People come to me for a bet and tell me that I'm mad to lay them, because the horse is going to win by a distance, but this year, 12 of them have said that I've laid 12 horses to lose amounts between £10,000 and £20,000. That suits me just fine, but the bad news for me is that I can't see anything outside of those ones winning."

Clear-favourite at 9-2 with Coral (and joint-favourite at a much fairer 7-1 with Cashman) for this year's Bumper is Youneverwallalone, trained by Christy Roche and owned by J P McManus. The same connections travelled to last year's event with Joe Mac, the favourite at 6-4 after one of the most sustained gambles of recent years. He came to win on the Festival's middle day.

British hopes of only a second win in eight runnings of the Bumper may rest with Martin Pipe's Golden Alpha, or one of Mark Pitman's trio of Canasta, John David and Monsieur Devil's Advocate, another of Pitman's bumper team, is more likely to wait for Aintree. Whatever the outcome, few racegoers will leave early on the weekend, he will be suited by the good ground which often prevails at Cheltenham.

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Course officials are to implement changes before Tuesday to try to ensure there is no repeat of the mayhem after three horses ran loose during a novice chase. John Maxse, the Jockey Club spokesman, said that exit gates must be made more accessible for loose horses immediately.

"What happened on Tuesday was a freak accident and we

have taken steps to minimise the problem," Maxse said.

Bob Bowden, chairman of Sedgefield, said: "There's an excellent entry of 125 for the meeting." He admitted that the track was "more vulnerable

than would have cost us the guts of a quarter of a million," Cashman says. "If that and Dorans Pride had won, it would have been a close-doors job. Every bookie has a limit, and we all had it up to the gills."

For Roche, the memory of last year's reverse is "water under the bridge", but he is cautious with predictions for Youneverwallalone. "He's only had one run; he's a big weak horse and he's done very little since," the trainer said yesterday. "He'll do a bit of work in a fortnight's time and we'll make a decision then. If he's improved, he'll go, but as for all the hype, that's being created by bookmaking firms to make sure horses keep being backed."

Both Roche and Cashman believe that Biliverdin, another 7-1 chance, will be the horse to beat next month. The winner of a valuable bumper at Fairyhouse last season, and another last weekend, he will be suited by the good ground which often prevails at Cheltenham.

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than most" to incidents like last Tuesday's because of the track's narrowness and tightness.

But he said: "The Jockey Club has given us a licence and we



Looks Like Trouble clears Sandown's last fence to complete a problem-free victory under Mick Fitzgerald yesterday

Allsport

Sedgefield avoids ban

Riders pursue Tom

TOM TATE is not an easy man to contact at the moment. The Yorkshire trainer's telephone is probably permanently engaged as the nation's jockeys attempt to clamber aboard his Ask Tom at the Cheltenham Festival.

Ask Tom is without a partner following the serious injury to his regular rider, Russ Garrity, at Sedgefield on Tuesday. The jockey will be missing for the rest of the season with a fracture of the spine.

"It's very sad for Russ and the whole episode at Sedgefield was upsetting," Tate said yesterday. "It's a bit early to get a new jockey sorted out for Ask Tom, although I can tell you a queue is already developing."

The Smith-trained Skane River was killed along with Royal Schmitz and Floss The Boss in last Tuesday's carnage.

MINIMUM WEIGHT 10st. True handicap weight: Stay Lucky 8st 11lb, Strong Paladin 8st 10lb.

BETTING 9-1 10-1 11-1 12-1 13-1 14-1 15-1 16-1 17-1 18-1 19-1 20-1 21-1 22-1 23-1 24-1 25-1 26-1 27-1 28-1 29-1 30-1 31-1 32-1 33-1 34-1 35-1 36-1 37-1 38-1 39-1 40-1 41-1 42-1 43-1 44-1 45-1 46-1 47-1 48-1 49-1 50-1 51-1 52-1 53-1 54-1 55-1 56-1 57-1 58-1 59-1 60-1 61-1 62-1 63-1 64-1 65-1 66-1 67-1 68-1 69-1 70-1 71-1 72-1 73-1 74-1 75-1 76-1 77-1 78-1 79-1 80-1 81-1 82-1 83-1 84-1 85-1 86-1 87-1 88-1 89-1 90-1 91-1 92-1 93-1 94-1 95-1 96-1 97-1 98-1 99-1 100-1 101-1 102-1 103-1 104-1 105-1 106-1 107-1 108-1 109-1 110-1 111-1 112-1 113-1 114-1 115-1 116-1 117-1 118-1 119-1 120-1 121-1 122-1 123-1 124-1 125-1 126-1 127-1 128-1 129-1 130-1 131-1 132-1 133-1 134-1 135-1 136-1 137-1 138-1 139-1 140-1 141-1 142-1 143-1 144-1 145-1 146-1 147-1 148-1 149-1 150-1 151-1 152-1 153-1 154-1 155-1 156-1 157-1 158-1 159-1 160-1 161-1 162-1 163-1 164-1 165-1 166-1 167-1 168-1 169-1 170-1 171-1 172-1 173-1 174-1 175-1 176-1 177-1 178-1 179-1 180-1 181-1 182-1 183-1 184-1 185-1 186-1 187-1 188-1 189-1 190-1 191-1 192-1 193-1 194-1 195-1 196-1 197-1 198-1 199-1 200-1 201-1 202-1 203-1 204-1 205-1 206-1 207-1 208-1 209-1 210-1 211-1 212-1 213-1 214-1 215-1 216-1 217-1 218-1 219-1 220-1 221-1 222-1 223-1 224-1 225-1 226-1 227-1 228-1 229-1 230-1 231-1 232-1 233-1 234-1 235-1 236-1 237-1 238-1 239-1 240-1 241-1 242-1 243-1 244-1 245-1 246-1 247-1 248-1 249-1 250-1 251-1 252-1 253-1 254-1 255-1 256-1 257-1 258-1 259-1 260-1 261-1 262-1 263-1 264-1 265-1 266-1 267-1 268-1 269-1 270-1 271-1 272-1 273-1 274-1 275-1 276-1 277-1 278-1 279-1 280-1 281-1 282-1 283-1 284-1 285-1 286-1 287-1 288-1 289-1 290-1 291-1 292-1 293-1 294-1 295-1 296-1 297-1 298-1 299-1 300-1 301-1 302-1 303-1 304-1 305-1 306-1 307-1 308-1 309-1 310-1 311-1 312-1 313-1 314-1 315-1 316-1 317-1 318-1 319-1 320-1 321-1 322-1 323-1 324-1 325-1 326-1 327-1 328-1 329-1 330-1 331-1 332-1 333-1 334-1 335-1 336-1 337-1 338-1 339-1 340-1 341-1 342-1 343-1 344-1 345-1 346-1 347-1 348-1 349-1 350-1 351-1 352-1 353-1 354-1 355-1 356-1 357-1 358-1 359-1 360-1 361-1 362-1 363-1 364-1 365-1 366-1 367-1 368-1 369-1 370-1 371-1 372-1 373-1 374-1 375-1 376-1 377-1 378-1 379-1 380-1 381-1 382-1 383-1 384-1 385-1 386-1 387-1 388-1 389-1 390-1 391-1 392-1 393-1 394-1 395-1 396-1 397-1 398-1 399-1 400-1 401-1 402-1 403-1 404-1 405-1 406-1 407-1 408-1 409-1 410-1 411-1 412-1 413-1 414-1 415-1 416-1 417-1 418-1 419-1 420-1 421-1 422-1 423-1 424-1 425-1 426-1 427-1 428-1 429-1 430-1 431-1 432-1 433-1 434-1 435-1 436-1 437-1 438-1 439-1 440-1 441-1 442-1 443-1 444-1 445-1 446-1 447-1 448-1 449-1 450-1 451-1 452-1 453-1 454-1 455-1 456-1 457-1 458-1 459-1 460-1 461-1 462-1 463-1 464-1 465-1 466-1 467-1 468-1 469-1 470-1 471-1 472-1 473-1 474-1 475-1 476-1 477-1 478-1 479-1 480-1 481-1 482-1 483-1 484-1 485-1 486-1 487-1 488-1 489-1 490-1 491-1 492-1 493-1 494-1 495-1 496-1 497-1 498-1 499-1 500-1 501-1 502-1 503-1 504-1 505-1 506-1 507-1 508-1 509-1 510-1 511-1 512-1 513-1 514-1 515-1 516-1 517-1 518-1 519-1 520-1 521-1 522-1 523-1 524-1 525-1 526-1 527-1 528-1 529-1 530-1 531-1 532-1 533-1 534-1 535-1 536-1 537-1 538-1 539-1 540-1 541-1 542-1 543-1 544-1 545-1 546-1 547-1 548-1 549-1 550-1 551-1 552-1 553-1 554-1 555-1 556-1 557-1 558-1 559-1 560-1 561-1 562-1 563-1 564-1 565-1 566-1 567-1 568-1 569-1 570-1 571-1 572-1 573-1 574-1 575-1 576-1 577-1 578-1 579-1 580-1 581-1 582-1 583-1 584-1 585-1 586-1 587-1 588-1 589-1 590-1 591-1 592-1 593-1 594-1 595-1 596-1 597-1 598-1 599-1 600-1 601-1 602-1 603-1 604-1 605-1 606-1 607-1 608-1 609-1 610-1 611-1 612-1 613-1 614-1 615-1 616-1 617-1 618-1 619-1 620-1 621-1 622-1 623-1 624-1 625-1 626-1 627-1 628-1 629-1 630-1 631-1 632-1 633-1 634-1 635-1 636-1 637-1 638-1 639-1 640-1 641-1 642-1 643-1 644-1 645-1 646-1 647-1 648-1 649-1 650-1 651-1 652-1 653-1 654-1 655-1 656-1 657-1 658-1 659-1 660-1 661-1 662-1 663-1 664-1 665-1 666-1 667-1 668-1 669-1 670-1 671-1 672-1 673-1 674-1 675-1 676-1 677-1 678-1 679-1 680-1 681-1 682-1 683-1 684-1 685-1 686-1 687-1 688-1 689-1 690-1 691-1 692-1 693-1 694-1 695-1 696-1 697-1 698-1 699-1 700-1 701-1 702-1 703-1 704-1 705-1 706-1 707-1 708-1 709-1 710-1 711-1 712-1 713-1 714-1 715-1 716-1 717-1 718-1 719-1 720-1 721-1 722-1 723-1 724-1 725-1 726-1 727-1 728-1 729-1 730-1 731-1 732-1 733-1 734-1 735-1 736-1 737-1 738-1 739-1 740-1 741-1 742-1 743-1 744-1 745-1 746-1 747-1 748-1 749-1 750-1 751-1 752-1 753-1 754-1 755-1 756-1 757-1 758-1 759-1 760-1 761-1 762-1 763-1 764-1 765-1 766-1 767-1 768-1 769-1 770-1 771-1 772-1 773-1 774-1 775-1 776-1 777-1 778-1 779-1 780-1 781-1 782-1 783-1 784-1 785-1 786-1 787-1 788-1 789-1 790-1 791-1 792-1 793-1 794-1 795-1 796-1 797-1 798-1 799-1 800-1 801-1 802-1 803-1 804-1 805-1 806-1 807-1 808-1 809-1 810-1 811-1 812-1 813-1 814-1 815-1 816-1 817-1 818-1 819-1 820-1 821-1 822-1 823-1 824-1 825-1 826-1 827-1 828-1 829-1 830-1 831-1 832-1 833-1 834-1 835-1 836-1 837-1 838-1 8

Kempes blasted aside by Rusedski

GREG RUSEDSKI raced to a 6-1, 6-4 second-round win over the Dutch wildcard Edwin Kempes in the ABN/AMRO world indoor tournament yesterday. The British No 2, who beat Nicolas Kiefer on Wednesday, had no trouble sweeping past Kempes in just 51 minutes.

Rusedski cruised through the opening set, breaking Kempes's serve in the second and fourth games as he took a 5-0 lead. Kempes held his third serve before Rusedski served out to take the set 6-1.

Rusedski secured a third break of serve in the third game of the second set to take a 2-1 lead and that proved to be enough. The next seven games went with serve as Rusedski wrapped up a comfortable victory that featured 12 aces.

Vyacheslav Kafelnikov, the No 2 seed here, met little resistance from Morocco's Hicham Arazi and stormed through 6-1, 6-2. The Australian Open champion's next hurdle is the Swiss world youth champion Roger Federer in the quarter-finals.

In another afternoon session second-round match in the Ahoy arena, the South African Wayne Ferreira overcame Jerome Golmard of France, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). The 19-year-old Russian Marat Safin continued his impressive progress with a hard-fought 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-3 victory over the Slovakian Dominik Hrbaty.

In Hanover, the local favourite Steffi Graf crushed the Austrian Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals of the Faber Grand Prix.

But holder Patty Schnyder, the No 4 seed, turned out in the second round of the \$50,000 event, losing in straight sets to the unseeded Russian Elena Lichevitsseva. The Swiss was well below her best and eventually doublefaulted on match-point, handing Lichevitsseva a 7-5, 6-3 win.

Schett, ranked No 19 in the world, broke Graf in the opening game of their third-round match but was then outplayed by the former world No 1.

Graf, now seventh in the WTA rankings and seeded

TENNIS
By DERRICK WHYTE
in Rotterdam

three, made her comeback in Hanover last year after eight months out of the game because of injury problems. She lost in the second round.

"I am satisfied with my form at the moment," said Graf. "I know that if I'm able to train well and everything goes my way I can be up there with the best." Schett agreed. "If she keeps on playing like that she will soon be making her way back to the top," she said.

Graf said she was ready to return to Germany's Fed Cup team who face Japan in Hamburg in April.

The qualifier Barbara Rittner reached the quarter-finals when her Italian opponent Silvia Farina withdrew because of illness after losing the first set. The German will meet either American Venus Williams, the second seed, or Japanese Ai Sugiyama. The winner of that match will face Graf in the semi-final tomorrow.

Aranita Sanchez-Vicario said yesterday she will not help Spain defend their Fed Cup title because of a troublesome wrist injury. Sanchez-Vicario, who last year won the French Open and with Conchita Martínez, led Spain to a fifth Fed Cup victory, will miss several other tournaments as she cuts down on her commitments.

"My decision is not to play the Fed Cup and to play in fewer tournaments this year. I've been in the sport for 14 years, 11 of those as a top five player, and I play more tournaments than anyone," the 27-year-old said.

In Memphis Jim Courier continued his comeback from an arm injury, upsetting No 4 seed Michael Chang in a second-round match at the Kroger St Jude indoor tournament.

Courier, a former No 1 currently ranked 89th in the world, eliminated Chang, a finalist in the tournament last year, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

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Results, page 27



Saqlain Mushtaq is caught by India's wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia for 21 while Anil Kumble looks on. Reuters

Saeed holds Pakistan together

THE PAKISTAN OPENER Saeed Anwar carried his bat for an unbeaten 188 after the Indian seamer, Javagal Srinath, had grabbed eight wickets to leave the first Test of the Asian Championship wide open.

Saeed's eighth Test century helped the tourists to 316 in their second innings, to set India 279 in reply. Srinath also dismissed Azhar Mahmood and Wasim Akram. Srinath, who took 5 for 6

in the first innings, claimed 8 for 68 in the second.

But there was little the Indians could do to remove Saeed. The 30-year-old surpassed his previous best of 175 against England three years ago but was left stranded as wickets tumbled at the other end.

The Indian opener Sadaq Khan was handed a one-match suspended sentence by match referee Cammie Smith for showing dissent after being given out on Wednesday.

India's eighth Test century was for just 54 runs in a dramatic final session before 85,000 enthralled home fans.

Srinath, who claimed six of those wickets, began the rout by removing Younis and Shahid Afridi off successive balls in his second over with the new ball. The seamer also dismissed Azhar Mahmood and Wasim Akram. Srinath, who took 5 for 6

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No happy returns for Collymore

THE COLD war between Aston Villa's manager John Gregory and the errant Stan Collymore is showing no signs of a thaw, despite the controversial striker's surprise return to playing action against Leeds on Wednesday.

Collymore, who has been undergoing counselling for stress and depression since walking out on the club last month, appeared for the last 19 minutes as Villa tried in vain to avoid a third consecutive defeat in the Premiership.

But despite Collymore being greeted almost as a hero by the Villa Park crowd, Gregory made it clear yesterday that there was no question of Villa extending an olive branch to the club's £7m record signing, whose prospects of reviving his career in the West Midlands appear to be diminishing.

"I've said all along that I don't agree with what Stan is doing and that remains my position," Gregory said, re-emphasising that he will not be offering Collymore the same friendship and understanding he has shown towards Paul Merson in his struggle against alcoholism.

Gregory has shown undivided disdain for the course Collymore has chosen to take and indicated that his recall on Wednesday came only because there was effectively no alternative. Collymore had not been expected to make a play-off comeback until next month.

"The situation is that Dion (Dublin) is struggling with a groin problem at the moment which really needs an operation and he is playing in a great deal of pain," Gregory explained.

"In the last few games we have been so stretched I have had to put virtually the youth team on the bench. I needed someone with experience so I

spoke to Jim Walker, the physio, a few hours before the game, and he told me that Stan was in good enough shape physically to play.

In Gregory's view, the latest controversy surrounding Collymore has done nothing but undermine Villa's progress. "So much of my attention has been taken up with these off-the-field affairs at a time when I would have preferred to be out on the training ground," he said.

Collymore returned to the clinic after Wednesday's match and is expected to stay there for at least another 10 days, although there is a possibility he will play some part in Villa's match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Sunday.

"Stan is very positive about his treatment," Gregory said. "He says it is helping him and if it helps Stan then I suppose it helps Villa, in a small way.

"But I am still very sceptical about the whole issue," he added. "I'm of the old school, if you like. I prefer my players to roll their sleeves up and get on with life. It is not a very pleasant situation for me to deal with but it is something I inherited and I have no control over it."

Despite Wednesday's truce, Collymore's future at Villa Park is unlikely to involve more than a bit-part role and Gregory has made it plain more than once that he would prefer to sell him.

"I think maybe this is his best role, as a substitute," Gregory said. "When he came on he definitely gave the crowd a lift and the players on the field a lift.

Whether Collymore would view that as the future he is looking for remains to be seen.

Collymore: Treatment



The machinery moves in at Stamford Bridge, where Chelsea yesterday began laying temporary new turf to replace the existing surface, which has been the subject of much criticism from leading players. A permanent surface will be laid at the end of the season PA

Gritty Gunners ready to pounce

BY GUY HODGSON

AS ALEX FERGUSON reflected on the state of play in the Premier League championship, he narrowed the list of the most likely suspects to his own Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. "You could toss a coin between all three," he said.

The United manager was viewing the situation from the standpoint of a missed opportunity. If United had beaten Arsenal in rain-sodden Manchester instead of drawing 1-1 on Wednesday night, then the spinning coin would have been weighted in Old Trafford's favour. Instead, Arsenal will view the coming month with optimism.

If the ubiquitous playing field was level, you would expect United to have the resources to make their four-point advantage count with a game in

hand tell, but Europe is looming and their lost points this season have tended to cluster around their Champions' League commitments.

Just a look at their six-match programme in 19 days during March - Internazionale (home and away), Chelsea (home), Liverpool (away), Newcastle (away) and Everton (home) - is enough to make you feel weary even if you have a squad as strong as Ferguson's.

Chelsea are still involved in the Cup-Winners' Cup. Aston Villa seem to have hit the marathon runner's wall while Arsenal have only domestic issues to concern themselves, which is identical to last season when they swept past a jaded United in the run-in. The rest

Nicolas Anelka, for all his complaints about life in north London, appears to have regained much from his two goals against England for France. Earlier in the season he looked tentative but there was nothing nervous about his side-foot into the roof of the net past Peter Schmeichel.

David Seaman is another man who has recovered his form. He made four world-class saves at Old Trafford that had converted either a penalty or a close-range chance late in the game, and Arsène Wenger admitted the home team were closer to winning 2-1 than his side, but there was a composure and assurance about the Double winners that looked menacing.

Andy Cole's equaliser was the first Premiership goal the fifty Gunners back four had conceded since 13 December and

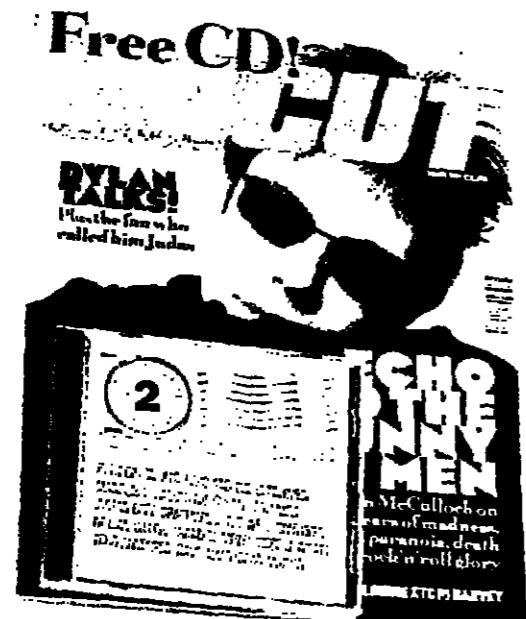
also without Denis Irwin and Ryan Giggs the difference between themselves and their replacements is not as stark.

It would be foolish to discount United, who are the best team in the country, but Ferguson had rung in beforehand that his side's vein of form and Arsenal's absences would make Wednesday a good time to play the Double winners. Yet they only drew.

"In games like these you need players to go that extra distance to be champions," Ferguson said, "and you saw that from both sides. Chelsea are the best team we've played this season but Arsenal are very close."

The problem for United and Chelsea is that Europe will mean the distance they have to travel in the run-in will be further than that faced by Arsenal.

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SAFETY HOTLINE

Houllier the best qualified - Kelly

KEVIN KEEGAN may now be in place as England coach, at least for the next four matches, but the former chief executive of the Football Association, Graham Kelly, believes that Terry Venables would have been the right man for the job.

"Obviously [the FA] have majored very largely on Kevin Keegan and they haven't been able, for whatever reason to persuade him to take the job permanently," Kelly said.

"Whoever comes along now is going to be second choice, that's inevitable. I think Roy Hodgson is well qualified but his experience at Blackburn has dealt him a fatal blow. The best one is Terry Venables but they won't appoint him."

"I think it will be interesting to see what Howard Wilkinson says. He has a very influential role in the long-term coaching and structure of the international scene and I know he'll be saying that for the future, not now but for two or four years on, that they will want to have people available from within the

FOOTBALL
BY TOMMY STANFORTH

structure of the FA so that you can promote from within."

Asked if the FA was further behind than when Hodges left, Kelly said: "Possibly. They are back to square one and have to start all over again."

"There is a danger of a conflict of interest here. Noel White [a director of Liverpool] is the chairman of the international committee – and one of the best people qualified, if you leave aside present commitments and club loyalty, is [the Liverpool manager] Gérard Houllier."

"He's been the technical director of France and a successful club manager. Granted he is only a year into doing a good job at Liverpool but he is one of the best qualified."

"There is a danger of a conflict of interest with the chairman of the international committee and there is also a



Tyne machine (from left): England's new coaching team, Arthur Cox, Kevin Keegan and Derek Fazackerley, in their Newcastle days

danger of a conflict of interest if they turn to Alex Ferguson. He has the best track record in Britain over the last 10 years. Are any of those people on the committee going to risk being refused by Manchester United, accused of upsetting their season as they are competing on number of fronts? It's a difficult situation all round."

A former England manager, Bobby Robson, believes Keegan may yet solve the FA's dilemma by accepting the national job full-time.

"The FA very much want Kevin, they see him as the saviour in some way," said Robson. "I think they're hoping he will get accustomed to the job, he will like it and maybe he will change his mind in the summer and take it on a full-time basis."

And Robson insisted he had not been asked to become England manager for a second

time despite reports that he was on the shortlist for the job. "The FA haven't been on the phone," he said. "I am coming home at the end of my contract this year and I've always said I would never let my country down, but that situation is completely in the hands of the international committee."

The nation breathed a small sigh of relief yesterday when the sponsors of the England

team gave their blessing to Keegan's appointment.

The Nationwide building society, which criticised former coach Glenn Hoddle following his remarks about disabled people, is happy Keegan is at the helm. "We're pleased Kevin is in place," a spokesman said.

"We've left the matter in the hands of the FA and are confident they will make the best decision in the circumstances."

Giants in debt to sparkling White

BASKETBALL
BY RICHARD TAYLOR

MANCHESTER GIANTS can look ahead to the final of the Uni-hall Trophy after sealing their place with a 93-88 victory over Sheffield Sharks on Wednesday night. The triumph gave them a 174-165 aggregate success over the holders as they bounced back from trailing by 10 points in the first quarter. The Giants were made to fight all the way by the Sharks but, helped by John White's game-high points haul of 36, they just crept home.

Thames Valley Tigers strengthened their hold on third spot in the Budweiser League with a 97-89 victory at Newcastle Eagles.

Greater London Leopards just held on to defeat Chester Jets 86-85 in a thrilling finale at the London Arena. Milton Keynes pulled away in the final quarter to defeat the Edinburgh Rocks 73-63 and climb into ninth spot.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Seattle SuperSonics' veteran Detlef Schrempf has told a German newspaper that he plans to apply for U.S. citizenship. "It's very likely. The papers have been lying around for a long time," the German-born forward, a former NBA All-Star, told Bild.

The 36-year-old also said he has considered returning to Germany at the end of his NBA career and playing for his country's top club, Alba Berlin. "But to live in another country than America, even if it is Germany, for an extended time isn't that simple," said Schrempf, who attended high school and college in Washington.

Schrempf has enjoyed a 14-year career with Dallas, Indiana and Seattle and is one of the best known foreign players in the NBA. If he changes citizenship, it would end German hopes of picking their best-ever basketball player for the national team.

TODAY'S NUMBER

2

The number of Leeds footballers (Ian Harte and Clive Wijnhard) who crashed their BMWs early yesterday, in separate incidents following the 2-1 win at Aston Villa. Both escaped serious injury.

Lennon's Leicester warning Wark eyes Wembley

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

AS LEICESTER City received planning permission for a 40,000-seat 25m stadium, one of the club's stalwarts insisted that the club should make sure that the team comes first.

"It will mean nothing if we are in the First Division," Neil Lennon said yesterday. "The football side is the important thing." The Northern Ireland international midfielder pointed to the example of his boyhood heroes, Manchester City who have carried out redevelopment work at Maine Road but are now in the Second Division.

"We have got to be a Premiership outfit before we get the stadium," he added. "There is no point in having a nice big stadium if we are going to be playing in Division One, because then it will be a waste of time."

The Premier League referees' Officer Philip Don has defended Uriah Rennie after criticism from Chelsea's player-manager, Gianluca Vialli. The Italian said Rennie had been

"arrogant" in sending him off against Blackburn on Wednesday. "I have to say I am disappointed with him because you can make mistakes but it's about the attitude as well," Vialli said. "I thought he was arrogant. He reminded me of my years in Italy when you couldn't communicate with referees."

Don denied that Rennie is arrogant and said: "There's not been any problem with Uriah." He said the new procedure for managers discussing controversial incidents with referees is working well despite the controversy at Stamford Bridge.

There was further controversy in the wake of the game, with Rovers' Chris Sutton taking a swipe at Frank Leboeuf.

"I've played against him a number of times and he always seemed the perfect gentleman, but he was very critical of the English game and kept saying how wonderful the French

game was," the Blackburn striker said. "We all know that France won the World Cup. We know Frank Leboeuf has a big reputation but he also has a big ego."

Southampton's new £200,000 Latvian striker Marian Pahars, is unlikely to be available for three weeks because of a work-related hold-up.

Everton are planning an appeal on the grounds of mistaking an identity against Olivier Dacourt's latest booking to save him from a ban that would rule him out of the FA Cup sixth round. The French midfielder was shown the yellow card in the 5-0 defeat of Middlesbrough on Wednesday for a foul on Paul Gascoigne. Everton believe it was Tony Grant who committed the offence, however.

Everton also confirmed the signing of Danish Under-21 midfielder Peter Degn on a pre-contract from Aarhus. Degn, 20, will move at the end of the season. The Football League Appeals Committee has ruled that Hullenders must pay Hartlepools £65,000 for midfielder Chris Beech. Hartlepools, who had sought £25,000 after 20 appearances and £15,000 more after 40.

Notts County have signed the strikers Peter Beadle and Gerry Creaney. Beadle has joined from Port Vale for £250,000, while Creaney cost nothing from St Mirren.

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JOHN WARK won a stack of medals during his career with Liverpool, Ipswich and Scotland, but one honour that has so far eluded the 41-year-old is a winner's medal in the FA Carlsberg Vase. That is an omission he might put right this year, if he can help Woodbridge Town beat Thame United in tomorrow's final tie.

Wark and another former Ipswich midfielder, Paul Mason, both signed for the little Suffolk club last week and are set to make their debuts at Notcutts Park in the home sixth-round tie against the Oxfordshire outfit. The Woodbridge manager, Dave Hubrick, started his career at Ipswich in the late 1970s when Bobby Robson was in charge and Wark was established in his reputation.

Woodbridge's squad is short on numbers due to injuries and outgoing transfers. "Paul and John will be a big asset to us," Gary Barker, the Jarrow Eastern League club's assis-

tant manager, said. "They have a great pedigree."

Wark was the first to sign for Woodbridge, and Mason joined him when their injury problems worsened. The 35-year-old, who played for AFC Bournemouth in 1991, has signed for Ipswich and registration forms were signed that evening in the Black Tie pub in Martlesham & New Milton.

Both Mason, who was released by Ipswich early this season, and Wark, who is scouting for the First Division club, have an alternative route to Wembley – they are playing for Windes and Elton in a veterans' tournament which also has its

final at the national stadium. Tomorrow's tie is their priority at the moment, though. "I'm really looking forward to it," Wark said. "The tie means so much to Woodbridge and I hope we can help them win."

The Vase holders Tiverton Town, who are aiming to reach their third Wembley final, have a home tie against Clitheroe, who were the beaten finalists in 1996. The Devon team were glad to avoid their equally accomplished Scunthorpe Direct Western League rivals, Taunton Town, in the draw. The Somerset side entertain Lymington & New Milton.

The remaining quarter-final sees the champions of the Arnott Insurance Northern League, Bedlington Terriers, take on the former Football League club, Workington. The Cumbrians are hoping that their former Tottenham, Liverpool and Elton in a veterans' tournament, which also has its

Ipswich aim to regain form

HOKEY

have tightened our defence. Our youngsters are gaining experience with every game and we expect to play our last two home games on our new pitch, so we will survive."

The day's top Premier fixture will be the in-form Hightown, in fourth, against Clifton who are one point ahead. In Division One Chelmsford Highway and Loughborough Students, the top two with equal points, meet at Chelmsford. Canterbury, one point behind, visit bottom club Sunderland Ashbrooke.

Jane Sixsmith scored twice for struggling Coldfield Coldfield for a 2-1 victory against Doncaster last weekend, only their second win of the season. Sixsmith said yesterday: "With Helen Whalley now back we

are back to basics and we are getting back to winning ways."

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The England succession: Former Newcastle management team is reunited to take on 'the biggest job in football'

Keegan's brave, brief new world

BY PHIL SHAW

KEVIN KEEGAN would love it, just love it, if he could leave what he describes as "the biggest job in football" after four victories, but the new England coach was adamant last night that even a 100 per cent record would not persuade him to forsake Fulham when his caretaker stint finishes in June.

Keegan, facing the media in a London hotel last night for the first time since accepting the job on a part-time basis, stood firm on his commitment to the Second Division promotion favourites. Yet the 48-year-old former England captain held out the tantalising possibility of returning to lead his country after his contract at Craven Cottage runs out in the summer of 2000.

"Maybe this job will come around again if I do it well, and please God I do," Keegan said as a barrage of flashlights flickered in his face. "That's what I hope, assuming I do a good job. I'll don't it'll never come again."

Pressed as to whether he would really be able to walk away, especially if results were positive, Keegan said: "I said from the start that that's the way it is. What they've got to do in the long term is find the right guy - and that's not me at the moment."

The coach who led England until his dismissal this month, Glenn Hoddle, was often accused of being away with the fairies. Keegan will be aware with the Fulham when he might have been expected to be assessing players and future opponents, but he dismissed suggestions that his loyalty to Fulham would hinder his capacity to do the job.

"The most important time will be the six days before the Poland game (on 27 March)," he said. "It may look part-time, but it'll be full-time from Kevin Keegan when it really matters. I don't accept that's a bizarre situation - in fact I believe it's the best situation for England."

Keegan, who recalled that

there is no place in Keegan's brave, brief new world for Hoddle's former deputy, John Gorman. The Scot had stayed on to assist Wilkinson but now leaves the FA payroll.

The new "team behind the team" will have their first test when the Poles come to Wembley for a pivotal European Championship qualifying fixture. A month later, England go to Hungary for a friendly, while Keegan's reign is scheduled to end after further Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

Wilkinson, similarly keen to dispel speculation about a clash of egos and interests, said that Keegan would have sole re-

INSIDE

'One of the best people qualified, if you leave aside present commitments, is the Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier. Graham Kelly on the answer to England's problem of finding a full-time manager'

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England coach Kevin Keegan (centre) enjoys a joke with new colleagues Howard Wilkinson (left) and David Davies yesterday. *David Aspinwall*

'I will be giving 1,000 per cent'

Nick Harris finds the new England coach in composed mood during his first public audience with the media

IN HIS first public appearance as the new England coach yesterday, Kevin Keegan displayed at least a measure of the trademark passion that led the Football Association to appoint him. Asked how much he was looking forward to taking charge of the national side - albeit for only four matches - he replied: "Can't wait. Can't wait to pick the squad. Can't wait for the players to report fit. Can't wait to pick the team. Can't wait to watch them get out there."

If Keegan had not been aware of the level of interest in his appointment before he turned up at the Metropole Hotel in west London, he was

left with few doubts once he arrived at the main entrance, and faced camera crews rushing at him and stills photographers stealing shots as he descended two floors to the basement even before he met the 150-plus journalists. Taking his seat for the first of three grillings - one each at the hands of television, the written press and radio - Keegan sat

between David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, and Howard Wilkinson, the technical director who is now part of his team.

Looking defensive at first under the glare of the cameras, he sat with his hands clenched across his knees and fidgeted with his collar. Asked how he can be committed to a job he

has said he will only do for four months, he said: "I'll give 1,000 per cent. Anyone who knows me knows that." Asked the same question again immediately afterwards, he kept calm as he repeated: "I just told you, I will be giving 1,000 per cent."

Throughout the encounters,

Wilkinson remained silent for

most of the time, while David Davies fiddled with a pencil and looked nervous, as if his new man might suddenly say something controversial or lose his composure. Davies need not have worried, even when Keegan was baited by some of those journalists who are already casting aspersions on whether he has the temperament to succeed. One ques-

tioner asked what Keegan's next move would be, "if, by some extraordinary miracle England win the next four games." Fixing him with a stare, Keegan merely answered: "You see, you don't believe, do you," and went on to explain that it only mattered to him whether he would be able to inspire the players, not what others thought or wrote about him.

"I won't let the media put me off the job," he said. "All the words you write and all the things you say won't matter. We're going to be back on top with both hands, towards Davies and Wilkinson will write your stories for you with results."

Keegan also demonstrated

that he had two qualities many might say Glenn Hoddle lacked - diplomacy and evident humour. At one point he was asked if his Fulham chairman, Mohamed al-Fayed, might now get for a British passport for allowing his chief operating officer to take the England job. "He's a magnificent chairman but apart from that I don't talk about him," Keegan replied.

Earlier he showed wit and a sense of self-deprecation when listing his international experience as a player: an England captain - and as a presenter.

"I said there's only one team that will win it and that's England," he said, recalling a statement he made in a World Cup match minutes before Romania won. "But that's what everyone else thought then," he added, laughing. What everyone will think about him in a few months remains to be seen.

Dallaglio's moral dilemma

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

TRUST THE southern hemisphere to gatecrash European rugby's most exclusive private party. Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, assumed he would be talking Five Nations business when he pitched up at Twickenham yesterday to chew a little Calcutta Cup fat, but it was not long before the thorn in the eye of Joel Stransky and there were some serious rumblings of discontent in Cape Town this week as the Springbok hierarchy publicly registered their mocking disapproval.

Dallaglio, the kicking outside-half from Pietermaritzburg who famously drop-goaled South Africa to the Webb Ellis Cup in 1995 before joining Leicester a year later, has been widely touted as a potential honorary Englishman for this autumn's World Cup. Worryingly for Dallaglio's team - not least Mike Catt, the current tenant at No 10 - the hubbub is gaining in volume and is clearly threatening to become a destabilising factor.

Stransky, the kicking outside-half from Pietermaritzburg who famously drop-goaled South Africa to the Webb Ellis Cup in 1995 before joining Leicester a year later, has been widely touted as a potential honorary Englishman for this autumn's World Cup. Worryingly for Dallaglio's team - not least Mike Catt, the current tenant at No 10 - the hubbub is gaining in volume and is clearly threatening to become a destabilising factor.

Well, not quite. Dallaglio was at pains to explain that in the event of the Twickenham

decision-makers allowing pragmatism to beat ethics to the punch, he would go with the flow. "I wouldn't have a problem playing alongside someone like Joe if he was actually picked for the England side," he stressed. "If the laws permit this sort of situation to arise,

people are bound to debate the

possibility."

Dallaglio is not alone in finding himself forced to weigh the merits of the matter against the potential benefit of a more hard-headed approach. Clive Woodward, the national coach, has also spent the last few days trying to untwist his knickers over Stransky and there

were some serious rumblings of discontent in Cape Town this week as the Springbok hierarchy publicly registered their mocking disapproval.

Rugby has sold its entire crop of political hot potatoes, but this one has a molten feel to it.

Ironically enough, Catt is also a South African, although not quite as South African as Stransky, if that makes sense.

The coincidence merely adds to the responsibility he carries into tomorrow's awkward tussle with Scotland, who are past masters at preying on English insecurities and utterly ruthless in knocking bigger and ap-

parently better equipped red rose outfits out of sync.

Thanks to the pre-Christmas victory over South Africa, in which Catt was a hugely positive influence, the Twickenham faithful expect great things, both of the Bath stand-off in particular and their team in general.

"Mike has heard the talk and it's up to him to comment on all this as he sees fit, but he knows as well as anyone how vital it is that we back up the win over the Boks with a performance of real substance," agreed Dallaglio.

"We've been here before, in a sense. Last year, we started our Five Nations campaign in France off the back of a draw with the All Blacks and we got our approach entirely wrong. It can happen. Sometimes you get excited by a particular performance and you make the mistake of looking back rather than looking forward. We are very capable of losing this game against Scotland if we fail

to pay them the right degree of respect. I'm happy, though, that there is real desire in this England team; look at the most successful sides in the world and you realise that the expectation comes from within. Any player who does not show the necessary ambition to get better and better will not be in the squad very long."

"We set high standards before Christmas, particularly in defence, but South Africa and Australia still take gold and silver in that department. We're equal third with the rest, and quite honestly, I don't want to be third in anything."

"We're going to be back on top with both hands, towards Davies and Wilkinson will write your stories for you with results."

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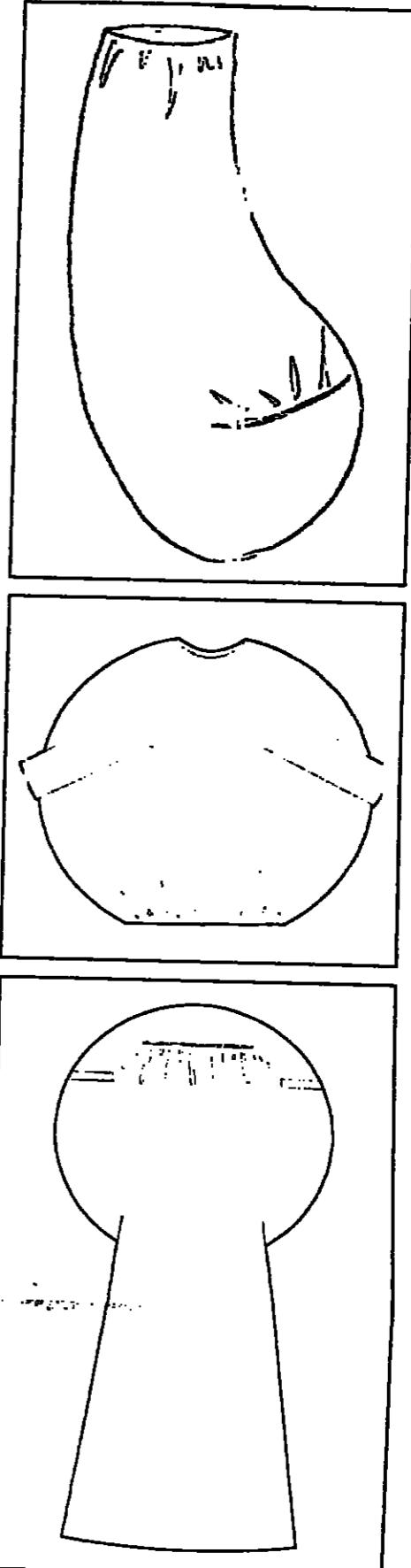
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FRIDAY REVIEW

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Emma Boam



Shelley Fox alters our perception of how clothing should look, starting at the drawing board with sketches of simple geometrical shapes

She's from Scunthorpe. She works with Elastoplast. She turns accidents into frocks. Is Shelley Fox fashion's next star?

Shelley Fox is like her clothes: very gentle, very feminine, very graceful, if a little dour. She is also endowed with quiet power. In the case of the woman herself, this translates as grim determination. Her designs are as thoughtful as they are provoking as their creator is thoughtful. Take the season before last's Braille skirt, for example: perfectly simple, A-line and with "this is a skirt" embossed on it in oversized Braille print. "I was working on a project at the RNIB [Royal National Institute For The Blind]. The ladies there told me that when blind people dress themselves, each item of their clothing carries a button with Braille print on it, describing what colour it is. That got me thinking about things the rest of us take for granted."

Not that Fox would ever be likely to take anything for granted: the designer is nothing if not resourceful. To say that Fox has learnt from her mistakes would be to underestimate their significance. Rather - and displaying a typically frugal English sensibility: creating something out of nothing - she has encouraged them.

In the past, she has created garments out of sticking-plaster fabric. "I tripped over a carpet rail, cut my knee and then took a good look at the Elastoplast I put on. I sourced the fabric to Smith & Nephew, and they sent me their archives." They also sent the then-penniless designer 100 metres of fabric to work with; she produced almost an entire collection out of it.

The scorched fabrics that have formed a large part of her work came into being when, while a student at Central Saint Martins in London, she allowed a press to overheat. On a third occasion, attempting to felt some wool, she put too much cloth into her washing machine.

"I came out all scoured and rippled," she says. "I spent ages trying to do it again." Felted, scorched and embossed wool has since become central to her signature style.

Aged 32, Shelley Fox was born in Scunthorpe, Yorkshire and grew up in the shadow of the steel-works. "When I was young," she says, "I didn't think I wanted to be a fashion designer. I didn't even know you could do fashion. But - and I only really know this in retrospect - I felt quite claustrophobic in this very small town. And I

could never find things I wanted to wear, so I used to buy old curtains and furnishing fabrics and turn them into clothes. I used to make patterns out of old newspaper."

Aged 14 - and in a part of the country hardly known for its fashion consciousness - she attracted more than her fair share of attention. Her work is deemed difficult by some. It's rather more serious than that of her contemporaries: a far cry from both the hard-edged glamour of the British fashion capital has come to represent on the one hand, and the London Girl thrift shop chic aesthetic on the other.

With their gentle envelopment of the female form and reliance on abstract shapes, Fox's

that can only be a good thing."

It was her mother, Fox says, who finally inspired her to make the break from Scunthorpe. Fox's father was a steel-worker; her mother had a job in the administration department of the steel-works. When their daughter was offered a place at Grimsby College of Art they did not hesitate: "I knew I couldn't draw, so I decided I couldn't go. Mum said: 'you're going'. She knew it was the only way."

After completing her foundation course, Fox went on to Croydon College, then Middlesbrough, then Central Saint Martins, Britain's most famous fashion school, which also produced the designers John Galliano and Alexander McQueen. She graduated with an MA in 1996.

Fox's London catwalk debut was last season. It was put together for under £1,500, while a big name designer show costs more like £150,000. Models were paid in clothes. The show was a critical success, but financially, Fox's position was tenuous. It's an all too familiar story: a designer whose work is feted and photographed by both newspapers and magazines, but still paying back the bank loan that funded her degree collection in the first place, can barely make ends meet. To support herself in between designing her own collection twice yearly, Fox teaches fashion - at Central Saint Martins, Nottingham Trent University and the American College in London.

Two weeks ago, she was forced to move into her tiny studio in London's Brick Lane. Her boiler had broken at home and she couldn't afford to have it fixed. On 10 February, however, Fox's fortunes changed radically: she became the first (and only) recipient of the Jerwood Fashion Prize, winning £20,000, a guaranteed order from Liberty worth £25,000 (retail value), sponsorship for a stand at London Fashion Week next season - and for a show the season after that.

It is the first prize of its kind, in that fashion sponsorship in general - and even for a high-profile designer - tends to be hard come by and, more importantly, because it is doing rather more than simply throwing money at a designer one season only to let them flounder the next.

Not insignificantly, the entry requirements for the prize concentrated as much on designers' business acumen as it did on creativity - a detailed business plan including financial forecasting was insisted upon. Fox was considered

by the panel of 11 judges to be in possession of both - and out of almost 200 applicants you can be sure that she was a member of a tiny minority.

"You know," she says, "I hate it when we're all seen as these whingeing designers. Of course there are some designers like that, but look over there, look at those files." A tall shelving unit in one corner of her studio toots beneath the weight of them. "It's all about organisation and it has been since day one."

With names like McQueen and Hussein Chalayan threatening to move on to fashion capitals other than our own, the pressure is on to replace them. Fox, however, is cautious. She has seen too many of her contemporaries forced to live up to the hype - and failing.

"I think Shelley is very professional," says Ettedgui, "very confident. She enjoys what she's doing and she does it very well. I think she's like a young Comme [des Garçons] or Yohji [Yamamoto]. It's very refreshing to see."

"Shelley's extremely creative," says Angela Quainford, senior buyer of Liberty and a Jerwood panelist. "I asked her to come and present her collection to the press the first time I bought it, two years ago now. She was there for two days solid. I don't think she ever sat down. At six o'clock I'd say: 'Shelley, go home now, for God's sake.' She'd say: 'But what if someone else comes to have a look?' She was like a little bulldog."

Today Shelley Fox insists that she is unlikely to be carried away by it all. She will continue teaching in order to support herself, and is more than woman enough to handle anything the press and the buyers might throw in her direction.

"I believe in what I'm doing and I don't think it's like other people's work," she says. "I've worked far too hard to be around one season and disappear the next. I've just been waiting quietly in the background because I knew, eventually, it would happen. I knew, eventually, it would come through."

She relaxes if only for a moment, then grins from ear to ear: "And it has!"

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Time to have a go at Jack Straw for this daft notion

THE HOME Secretary is in some ways an excellent politician. He shares with Jeff Rooker the Agriculture Minister and hero of the airwaves this week, the distinction of knowing what he thinks and knowing why he thinks it, which makes him stand out in a sea of ministers parroting sound bites as they try to remember what they are supposed to be saying.

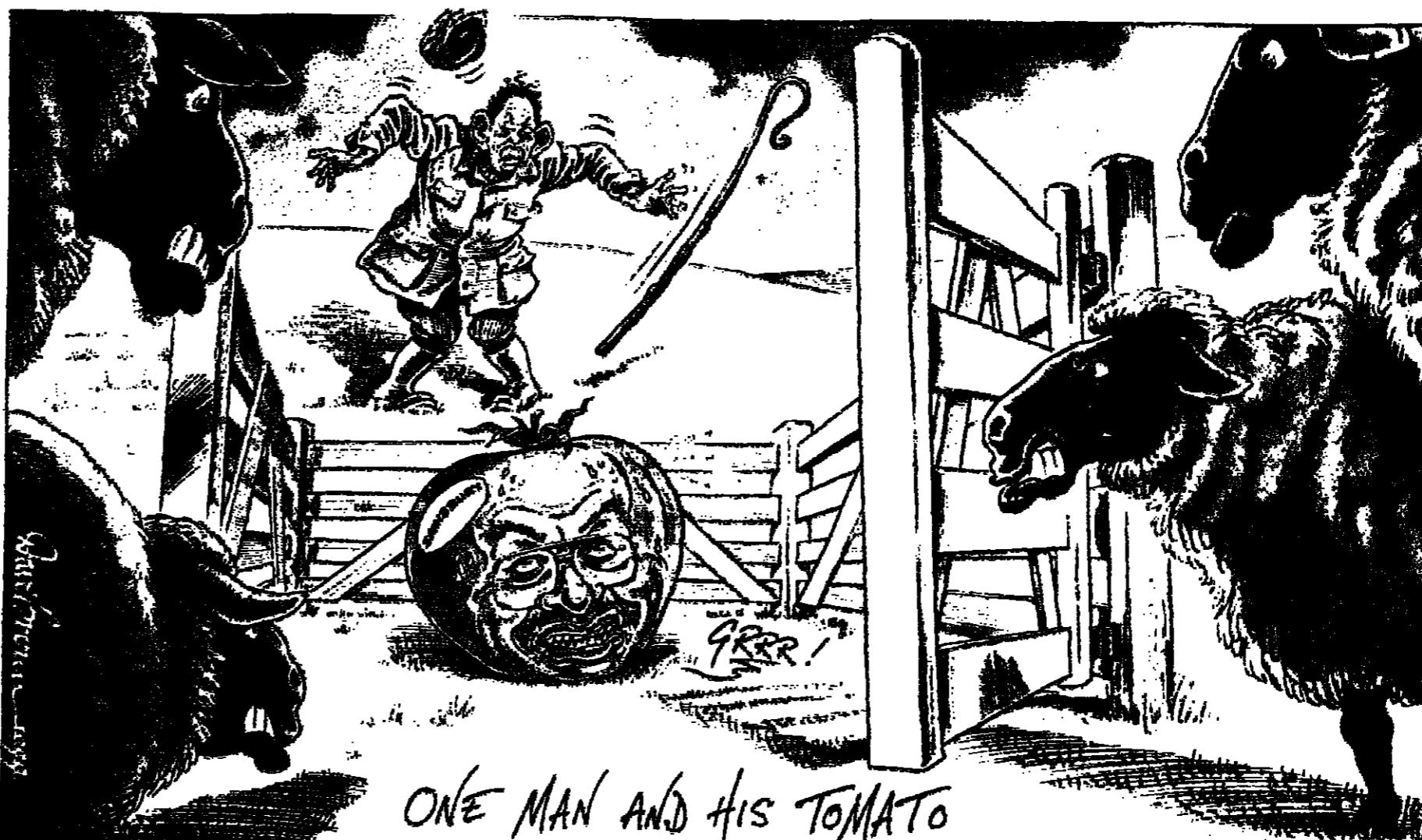
At least we know, then, where we stand with the Home Secretary. And much of what he says and does is admirable. But far too much is tinged with an illiberalism which assumes that the police and other agents of the state are always and everywhere a benign and error-free force.

Much of his speech yesterday was thoughtful, especially its concern to deal with the real corrosion of quality of life, which is the fear of crime rather than disorder itself. But his comments on the "walk on by" society, however well-intentioned, were unwise. This may be a telling commentary on the present state of public incivility, but his suggestion that people should "intervene" when they see a group of 11- or 12-year-olds vandalising a telephone box was unrealistic. The reason why most people do not take the law into their own hands in such situations is that they are too well aware of the risks of violence, with or without the use of weapons. It is all very well for Stalwart Straw to boast about his citizen's arrests and his rugby-tackling of fleeing thieves. Most women and old people, quite sensibly, would not even consider asking someone politely not to smoke on a train.

It is not surprising that senior police officers contradicted him, urging people not to intervene but to call the police and be prepared to give evidence in court – important civic duties that are also neglected, and to which Mr Straw could more usefully have addressed himself.

At the heart of Mr Straw's folly is the slippery slope argument, which is just as much a fallacy whether the slope is from soft drugs to hard, or from dropping litter to petty crime. "Zero tolerance" is a fine slogan but a hopeless policy; police resources and time have to be prioritised. If every public display of high spirits or of minor disrespect for authority were treated as the beginning of a career in crime, we should all soon find ourselves under surveillance.

Many people – perhaps especially those young enough not to remember them – feel mournfully nostalgic for the days when pensioners could tick off a 15-year-old and be respected because they knew them, or were related to them. And there is much wrong with the coarseness, rudeness and unloveliness of many of our fellow-citizens' public behaviour. But the idea of self-appointed Jack Straws bossing everyone about and marching people they do not like the look of down to the police station would be far from an improvement.



No stability for Africa until Mr Mugabe goes

GREAT ZIMBABWE was one of the glories of ancient Africa. Modern Zimbabwe is one of its disgraces. And this is due to one man – Robert Mugabe, who has reigned there since he helped to end white rule in 1980. Mr Mugabe has been correctly criticised for pursuing land reform without paying proper compensation to the white minority that owns most of the country's land. But even this high-handed action pales in comparison with his campaign to undermine the rule of law and silence all opposition in his one-party state.

Recently, soldiers have seized, and allegedly tortured, journalists who reported on army disaffection about Mr Mugabe's campaign in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. When Zimbabwe's supreme court judges protested against these illegal arrests, Mr Mugabe

went on television and told them to resign. He even accused "British agents" of trying to undermine the state.

Mr Mugabe has behaved despotically before. In 1987, he abolished the reserved seats for whites in the parliament. He then decided that being Prime Minister wasn't enough and took over presidential powers when President Canaan Banana resigned. The Rev Banana has been the object of a nasty campaign in which Mugabe has accused homosexuals of being "lower than pigs and dogs".

The Zimbabwean Acting High Commissioner implied in yesterday's *Independent* that his country has fair elections. Not so. They are a joke. Only three of the 150 members of parliament are outside Mugabe's party. His "elections" would have impressed the old Soviet rulers, so efficient are they in delivering the desired result.

These abuses cannot be ignored. Mr Mugabe has enjoyed the tolerance of the West because it felt that it should not criticise Zimbabwe while racists ruled South Africa. Nelson Mandela's presidency has changed all that.

Instead of co-operating with Mandela to bring stability to southern Africa, Zimbabwe, a vital strategic power, has now become a force for bad in the region. Mr Mugabe has sent an army into Congo to prop up Laurent Kabila's regime because Mr Kabila has given Mugabe's nephew valuable mining rights. These actions serve only to encourage all those in the West who say we should ignore Africa now that there is no obvious interest to be served by intervention.

So where do we go from here? Land reform, if carried out in a democratic manner, is a just cause and could be of international benefit. If tobacco plantations, for instance, were to be replaced by food crops, many of us would applaud. However, Mr Mugabe must carry out any further reform according to his recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Furthermore, Mr Mugabe has had a sufficient crack of the whip. He should stand down at the country's elections next year. In the meantime, he should strengthen democracy by allowing the courts and reporters to go about their lawful business.

What is to be done with the helpless and hapless Mr Hague?

IF SOME latter day Flaubert were to write a modern British version of the great man's *Dictionary of Received Ideas*, that wonderful book of all the most unoriginal but seemingly knowledgeable things to say in bourgeois society, the entry for the Conservative Party would write itself: "Busted flush. Hopeless case. Racked by division. Obliterated by Tony Blair."

It is indeed the Received Wisdom of the day. It has stubbornly survived the skirmishes over Genetically Modified food and crops, in which John Redwood – and, for that matter, William Hague – has embarrassed the government. It survives Hague's undoubtedly skilful and effective performances at the dispatch box every Wednesday against the Prime Minister. It has survived a modest recovery in local council by-elections. And it has survived one of the most unexpected reassessments in recent history, the blossoming of Ann Widdecombe.

The assumption that the unenviable plight of the Conservative Party is a necessary consequence of the times is an easy one to make. It is, if anything, reinforced by Central Office figures designed to demonstrate that the party has been bobbing at or under 30 per cent since Black Wednesday and that therefore William Hague cannot be blamed for the party's failure to make more headway.

It makes sense of what appears to be Hague's strategy of taking few risks, particularly any which might alienate the party's right wingers who formed the bulk of his support when he became leader after the 1997 election, to await a general elec-

tion in which the law of the political cycle dictates that his party cannot fail to do better than it did in 1997, and to coast to better times.

There are, however, faults in this prescription. The remarkable fact that it is the Conservative Party and not the government which is suffering from mid-term doldrums is not quite so inevitable as the defeatists in its own ranks assume. It could make a start by pursuing the doctrine that the duty of opposition is to oppose. Take the Commons debate on House of Lords reform this week, the most recent and dismal example of the Opposition's failure to oppose. The debate was interesting, perhaps the first occasion since the general election when the Commons, across party divisions, began to stir.

Several speeches, and two in particular that by the Labour QC Robert Marshall-Andrews, and an equally thoughtful though less entertaining one by the young Tory backbencher Andrew Tyrie, a Hague loyalist, pointed the way to making common cause against the government's relentlessly minimalist approach to Lords reform in general, and the dangers of Prime Ministerial patronage.

Moving an amendment which would have deprived Prime Ministers of much of their power to appoint life peers, Tyrie rehearsed the long list of Conservatives including Curzon, Churchill, FE Smith, and Lord Carrington who had been, like Tyrie himself, in favour of an elected Upper House. If the Tory front bench had forced Tyrie's amendment to the vote

joined forces with Marshall-Andrews, it would not have defeated the Government.

But it would have done a lot to damage the credibility of a reform which may yet leave the Lords in largely appointed hands. So what does the Tory front bench do? It presses a hopeless amendment which proposes that all hereditary peers should retain the right to speak, though not to vote, and to continue to use its club facilities. Not content with that, it does not make any serious attempt to halt the progress of the Government's bill.

Next week, the Tory hereditary peers will back a bland anti-patronage amendment, but in the certain knowledge that the defeat will be merely symbolic. Mr Hague had an opportunity to present himself as more democratic and progressive than Mr

Blair, and attract support from Labour MPs in the process. And he threw it away. Having sacked Lord Cranborne for making a deal with Mr Blair which, while ending the hereditary principle, will preserve temporary voting rights for 91 hereditary peers, Mr Hague then dragoons his MPs into conduct which ensures that the same deal will become law. This is known as having the worst of both worlds.

It is also not the way to make a difference. What's more, it is one of several respects in which Mr Hague can unfavourably be compared with Kenneth Clarke, another Tory who has incidentally "come out" in favour of an elected chamber, and comparing Mr Hague unfavourably with Mr Clarke is once again a fashionable activity in several Tory circles.

If you doubt that the Tories could be doing better than they are, simply consider what life would be like if Mr Clarke were leading the party. Mr Clarke's robust attack from the backbenches in a recent health debate is only a taste of what he might achieve from the dispatch box. The common assumption is that a Eurosceptic Tory party would never turn to Mr Clarke. But desperate times make desperate men. Especially as on Europe – enthusiasm for which is Mr Clarke's most signal handicap as a potential leader of today's Tory party – he would allow the party to agree to differ until an EMU referendum. He is, in other words, still dangerous.

That said, no doubt Mr Hague is still highly unlikely to be toppled this side of an election. Only a wholesale failure to improve the Tory vote in this year's Scottish, Welsh and European elections would make him seriously vulnerable. But assuming that he survives those elections, and even modestly improves his standing in them, there are still fallacies in the strategy of appealing the right until the next general election.

Some Tory MPs, shaken by the votes the Referendum Party managed to shave off them in the 1997 election, claim to be worried about the electoral threat from parties on the right. But if the polling by the renegade pro-European MEPs John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly shows anything, it is that the real threat is on the pro-European left: the fact that 13 per cent of electors would support a pro-European "New Conservative Party" led by Clarke and Michael Heseltine suggests that Tory supporters are a lot more favourably inclined towards EMU than Tory activists.

The problem for Mr Hague is what one or two of his opponents are now gleefully calling the "double whammy" – that he loses, though not disastrously, the general election and then an EMU referendum as well. At which point the pro-Europeans, including Mr Clarke, who would still only be 61 after a referendum in the year 2001, might well be able to reclaim, and largely reunite, their party.

They would have been proved right,

and the Tory Eurosceptics wrong. Don't forget: this may be less than four years away. It helps to explain why Mr Clarke has no intention of leaving the Tory party at present; and why Mr Hague needs to do some thinking pretty fast, and not only about Europe.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Not many people wanted the job."
Noel White,
Chairman of the FA's International Committee

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't."
Mark Twain,
American author

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

American press comment on the possibility of Hillary Clinton standing for the Senate

EVER SINCE Sexgate erupted, Mrs Clinton has been sheltered from tough questions and granted a zone of privacy out of sympathy for her ordeal as the wronged wife. Even before, she was more sheltered from the press than her predecessor, Barbara Bush. Mrs Clinton hosts gossip columnists or gives controlled interviews to friendly columnists who are unlikely to press her on messy issues, such as how she turned \$1,000 into \$100,000 on cattle

futures. All that ends if the president's wife becomes a candidate in her own right.

New York Post

If we're laying odds, we'd be giving 5-2 against it ever happening. Mud-slinging with other candidates would do little to enhance Mrs Clinton's reputation. Her political and personal failings would all be re-examined. Right now, she is the stand-up, hard-bitten, long-suffering wife of a self-

acknowledged cad. When and if she becomes the tough and combative candidate, she isn't likely to remain nearly as popular as she is today.

Delaware County Daily

THE IDEA of a race between mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Hillary Clinton is so tasty that even the first hints of a speculation of a possibility created headlines. Now that Hillary is

officially considering the idea, political junkies are in a full-blown frenzy. This is the sort of contest that election aficionados live for. It could even actually overshadow the presidential contest.

The New York Times

HILLARY CLINTON is able and attractive, and at 51 should have an interesting future once Clinton's presidency is mercifully put to rest. But as to her being Moynihan's likely and appropriate New York successor, we need more time to tell.

San Francisco Examiner

SHE WOULD be the target of intense criticism stemming from her husband's misbehavior. Her loyalty to her husband despite his sexual escapades might endear her to some voters but alienate others. The idea might work in New York. We doubt that it would fly in Texas.

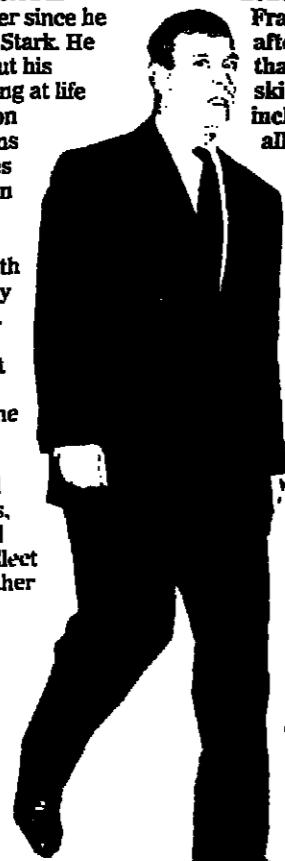
Lubbock Avalanche Journal

PANDORA

PADDY ASHDOWN's chances of taking the post of EU Foreign Policy "tsar" are firming up, following rumours that he will give up his Yeovil seat in the summer. There is a growing list of names interested in succeeding Paddy in Yeovil. His former aide Alan Leaman is tipped to run for selection, with other names being bandied around including Jane Bonham-Carter, a former party communications chief and friend of Derek Draper; Mike Hoban, who came within 2,000 votes of unseating Tom King in Bridgewater at the last general election; and Ruth Coleman, a North Wiltshire Counsellor who is seen as a counterweight to Lib Laberry. The list of those interested in Paddy's Yeovil bastion seems likely to stretch as long as the list for the Lib Dem leadership. Soon there may not be anyone left in the party who has not tried to fill Paddy's shoes in some way.

JEFFREY ARCHER appears to have surpassed himself in the populism stakes. Lord Archer has "imitated" a Private Member's Bill from the Conservative MP Christopher Fraser which curbs the problem of utility companies digging up roads. The main thrust of the Bill appeared in Wednesday's *Evening Standard* as Archer's "brainchild". The RAC, which was backing the Bill, takes a different view. The head of campaigns, Edmund King, told Pandora: "Lord Archer seems to have 'reinvented' our plans. Imitation is still the most sincere form of flattery, but when you're in a hole, don't dig." An Archer spokesman responded: "The difference is, our idea has teeth and will work."

PRINCE ANDREW (pictured) has been interested in photography ever since he was dating Koo Stark. He has spoken about his interest in looking at life through a lens on several occasions and says he likes "to take common sights from a different viewpoint, or with something funny on top of them". But there is a little-known fact about his photography. The Duke is a director of a company called Killy Associates, whose principal activity is to collect royalties and other payments "in respect of the publication of photographs taken by the Duke of York". All profits from this venture go to charity. However, the



Pandora can be contacted by e-mail at: pandora@independent.co.uk

company reports for 1997 and 1998 show that His Royal Highness sold the princely total of precisely - nil photographs. Pandora tried to contact the company to see which photographs were on sale and whether she could do the Prince a favour by actually buying any, but the company has no telephone number listed. Could this be why the photos aren't selling?

PANDORA'S AWARD for parliamentary put-down of the week goes to the former attorney general, Sir Nicholas Lyell. In a debate on the House of Lords, Lyell took an intervention from Peter Mandelson, to which Lyell replied: "Occasionally I have wondered whether I might come across an old lady with a spinning-wheel in some high room in this House, and now I have come across her."

THE MESSAGES floating around the Conde Nast message system often offer wonderful goodies for sale, many of which would appeal only to the Alice-in-Wonderland brigade at Vogue house. Earlier this week the system buzzed with news from Moscow: "Gucci suit for sale, £250, double-breasted, bargain price, perfect except for a small bullet hole due to Russian Mafia." The suit went in, er, a shot, but other gems still on offer include peacocks - apply to *House and Garden* - and the entire edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica offered for £1,000. "Sale due to marriage," runs the ad. "Wife knows everything."

THE FOREIGN Office has been under fire in recent weeks from the travel industry for the quality of its official travel advice. Yesterday it published the latest warning for winter holiday-makers in France, a mere week after the tragedies that killed a score of skiers. It also includes a curious allusion to would-be Inspector Clouseau-style impersonators: "Visitors to ski resorts should be aware that the Alps are experiencing the worst conditions for many years and this situation is likely to continue for several more weeks. Although the authorities have taken precautions to prevent accidents." *Excusez-moi?*

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The lure of the cinematic cliché



PHILIP HENSHER
Art is parochial, and something goes terribly wrong with it when it tries to cross borders

The economics of the industry mean that a film has to have some possibility of worldwide distribution; and the best chance of achieving that is to try to say only one thing, to sell your English film on the basis of its Englishness and forget those who don't get your jokes and can't tell you the name of your Prime Minister.

If you want to make your appeal international, you paradoxically have to narrow your range, and simplify and blunt what you want to say. And this has happened across the film industry in a particular way.

only to look at the decline of the Italian film industry over the last 20 or 30 years. In the Sixties, Italian films were the strongest and most inventive in Europe. Fellini, Visconti, Pasolini, Rossellini and dozens of others were working at full imaginative stretch. And they were making films almost entirely for a domestic audience, with the intention of pleasing minds that were like their own. I can't believe that the makers of *Rocco and His Brothers* and *Juliet of the Spirits* wasted five minutes wondering what Americans would think of their films. They are products of a culture, not attempts to produce a palatable image that will make sense in Idaho.

It really makes you weep to look at the incredible rubbish that represents the Italian film industry now. The industry has been encouraged by the half-witted enthusiasm of Hollywood, to lobotomise itself. Film after film sets up a picture-postcard image of Italian life, where everyone is your friend and the clown wipes away the little boy's tear. *Cinema Paradiso*, *Il Postino*, and now that revolting *Life is Beautiful*; every suspicion of serious thought is subjugated to whimsy, to the heart-warming fantasies that are what

Americans seem to expect when they go and see an Italian movie.

But the problem is not that Americans are stupid, but that across the world, films are being made with an eye on what will make sense in a whole range of cultures.

It is an economic decision which has been as much a disaster for the American film as for smaller national industries. Once, an American film was made up of jokes which Americans would get, and the result was *All About Eve*; now, it has to make sense to Germans and Koreans, and films are made in which a father is reincarnated as a snowman.

They are equivalents of the Ferrero Rocher TV ad; they make some kind of sense everywhere, and perfect sense absolutely nowhere.

No national film industry is content, it seems, to make films that aim primarily at the national audience. They seem to want to make a film that will make as much sense in Kuala Lumpur as in Kansas or Kensington. And the result is either a film of terrible, bland predictability, or a film that reproduces the most widely-held idea of a particular nationality.

No one could make *Rocco and*

His Brothers now, because, as everyone knows from the movies, Italians don't struggle for their rights; they lie about all day eating olives in the sun. What the English are about, if we listen to Hollywood, is History and Class; Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth and Victoria.

It's far too late to do anything about the Italian film, but the British film industry is still strong enough to make an effort and stick to its guns. Of course, it's nice when someone notices what you're doing, and we ought to be pleased that Americans are getting some sort of pleasure out of an English film. But the opinion of Americans should be of absolutely no interest to us, and the British film shouldn't make much of an effort to second-guess what will appeal outside Britain.

We shall start making good films when we make films which please us, not by presenting cute, 90-minute images of Englishness to the outside world. It hasn't happened yet; but it would be really very beneficial all round if *Shakespeare in Love* didn't make a clean sweep at the Oscars. This is a very good film, but I promise you, what would follow in its wake would be quite unspeakably awful.

We should recycle the dead to help the living



JOHN HARRIS
Why should people be allowed to bury or burn the bodies of their relatives when they die?

all, have no further use for their organs; the living do.

Such a proposal, if accepted, would have many advantages. It would mean that virtually all cadaver organs were automatically available and doctors would not have to ask dying people if they consent to their organs being used. Neither would they have to ask grieving relatives such a difficult question at perhaps the worse possible moment.

People think that there would be many religious objections to such a simple proposal. This seems doubtful since there has never been an outcry against the present system in which coroners may order post-mortem examinations of the dead without any consent being required.

No one may opt out and there is no provision for conscientious objection.

Moreover, as is now well known, organs are often removed during such examinations and not replaced.

We have all accepted that there is an important public interest at stake here. It matters very much both that

murders do not go undetected and that illnesses and accidents that cause death are properly understood so that others may be protected. There is a clear and important public interest here. But how much more so in the case of organ donation. Organs are required to save life, not merely to explain suspicious deaths. If there is a public interest in the one case, there is surely also a strong public interest in providing donor organs to save lives.

Some fears have been expressed that if organs can be automatically used, doctors may have less incentive to strive to keep people alive if there are people waiting to receive organs. There are two important things to note about such fears. The first is that there is absolutely no evidence that people who currently carry donor cards have ever been given anything other than the best possible care because they are eligible as donors. But perhaps even more crucial - if people are worried about their chances of survival - is the fact that they are more likely at the moment to need an organ and not get it than to be ill and not properly treated. So prudential self-interest also supports the automatic availability of cadaver organs.

Some people will have strong objections to their bodies being tampered with after death. Then we have a hard choice to make. It is surely far from clear that people are entitled to conscientious objection to practices that will save innocent lives. However, if we make sure that conscientious objection really is just, and apply tests comparable to those for people who claim conscientious exemption from military service in time of war, it is likely that the exceptions will be sufficiently few for such hard choices to be avoided. We may note that there is no provision, so far as I am aware, for conscientious objection to compulsory post-mortem examinations.

Fully consensual schemes are always best. But when so much is at stake, we must consider even mandatory schemes. The scheme that I have proposed will save lives, and the costs, while significant, are not incompatible with the values of a decent democratic society - as coroner ordered post-mortem examinations demonstrate.

John Harris is Sir David Alliance Professor of Bioethics at the University of Manchester and a former member of the BMA's ethics committee



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The modernisation of the police

THE LEVEL of debate about what kind of police force we need and what kind of police force we have is now very significant and will reach a climax next week with the publication of the Macpherson report on the death of Stephen Lawrence. I do not know what is in that report and I would not want to be drawn on its conclusions; however, there are one or two obvious resonances and I will try to make clear my beliefs about those.

The second paragraph of the 1993 White Paper on Police Reform issued by the last government stated that "the main job of the police is to catch criminals". In contrast, the overarching purpose of the police service issued by the present administration is:

"To build a safe, just and tolerant society, in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced, and the protection and security of the public are maintained."

I am much more comfortable with the second approach. While a job of the police is to catch criminals - and as a

chief constable, I am trying to encourage the habit among my officers - the job of the police service is much broader: to contribute to creating and maintaining the kind of stable communities in which individuals and community organisations flourish.

Twenty-five years ago, Sir Robert Mark wrote:

"The police are the avril on which society beats out the problems and abrasions of social inequality, racial prejudice, weak laws and ineffective legislation."

If you will pardon the pun, the avril is a very striking and old-fashioned if not quite obsolescent, and is something which things are done to but which does not change as a result.

There could scarcely be a better simile for the culture of the police: at its best, brave - sometimes, heart-stoppingly brave - capable, impermeable, offering equality of treatment before the law, a safe haven.

We all know of examples of police culture at its worst, but, even at its best, it is not best fitted to handle the disparate and shifting requirements of

modern society. So if there is modernisation to do, it is here. This is not about race, solely. It is about the mindset of the organisation. Talking to women officers, for instance, and as a generalisation, I find that they clearly feel that they have to adapt to a male ethos.

This is not about the separation of the ways of governance of the police service from those used in the rest of local government remains as sensible as it once was.

We need to consider whether the great totum of the operational independence of chief constables - which has been used to keep police authorities at a suitable dis-

tance - is as all-encompassing as it has been claimed to be.

We need to consider whether police managers need to be trained separately from their colleagues in local government, from the fire service, from the ambulance service.

We need to examine whether the outmoded labour relations framework in which the police operate is appropriate.

The Government has launched itself upon something that is referred to as "The Project" - for the modernisation of Britain. In terms of crime and policing, there were manifesto commitments on drugs, on youth crime, on community crime reduction (and the Crime and Disorder Act is a substantial step forward in this direction) and on police efficiency.

Despite much effort, the police service has not thought through the consequences, the implications, the requirements of modernity. It needs to do so now. If modernisation is to happen, the police need help. In order to help with enquiries, you need to invite the cops in from the cold.



PODIUM
From a speech by the chief constable of the Surrey Police to the Social Market Foundation, London

modern society. So if there is modernisation to do, it is here. This is not about race, solely. It is about the mindset of the organisation. Talking to women officers, for instance, and as a generalisation, I find that they clearly feel that they have to adapt to a male ethos.

We need to consider whether the great totum of the operational independence of chief constables - which has been used to keep police authorities at a suitable dis-

Joan Curran

IN THE summer parliamentary recess shortly after I was elected as MP for West Lothian in 1962, I was invited to lunch by Sam Curran, then the Principal of the Royal College of Science and Technology in Glasgow, as a new Scottish MP interested in science. On the right-hand side of our hostess, opposite me, was placed R.V. Jones, the Assistant Director of Intelligence – and from 1946 to 1952 Director of Intelligence – at the Air Ministry. Our seemingly reticent hostess listened politely to Jones's conversation, spattered as it was with technical illusions. She said little and nodded sagely. After lunch Jones said to me, "I saw you wondering. No mere dutiful wife she! In my opinion, Joan Curran made an even greater contribution to victory in 1945 than Sam."

As M.R.D. Foot put it, opening Jones's own obituary [19 December 1997], "R.V. Jones was one of the main wizards during the secret war against Hitler; became a pillar of scientific education, and wrote some notable books." Jones was in a position to know.

As I got to know the Currancs better, Sam never missed the opportunity to point out that Joan had indeed made a greater contribution than he had in his work previous to or during the Manhattan Project, and was a formidable scientist in her own right. In old age the way in which they looked after each other in their Glasgow Anniesland flat was rather sweet. When I was writing an obituary in a hurry of their friend Sir Nevill Mott [12 August 1996], I phoned Sam and he said, "I cannot talk to you until after half an hour. I'm doing my morning bathing of Joan's eyes."

Joan Strothers was born in Swansea, the daughter of an optician. Later at the Cavendish Laboratory and throughout her working life she had the reputation of being outstandingly neat and skilful in the deployment of equipment. She had the scientific equivalent of gardening green fingers which she would modestly attribute to her father's interest in her education. From Swansea Girls' High School she went up to Newnham College, Cambridge, on an open scholarship in 1933. Encouraged by the Newnham tutor A.C. Davies, after graduation she went to the Cavendish and was assigned to a group working under Philip Dee. In this group was the young Sam Curran with whom she had a romance which was to end in 58 years of supremely successful marriage.

On the outbreak of war the group went to Swanage and then to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, where other physicists included Philip Dee, Bernard Lovell and Alan Hodgkin.

R.V. Jones, in his book *Most Secret War* (1978), identifies the "two major possibilities" for their countermeasures against the Luftwaffe as "jamming and spurious reflectors". "Jamming," he writes,

appealed to me less, because it was cruder and moreover would jeopardise any aircraft carrying a jammer because it could be homed on by fighters carrying suitable receivers. Spurious reflectors would be simpler, and contained an element of noise.

Spurious reflectors, to the development of which Joan Curran was so successfully to apply her technical dexterity, he explains as follows:

The phenomenon on which they depended was that of resonance. If a reflector is made of a simple wire or strip of metal of length equal to half the wave-

Curran had the scientific equivalent of green fingers. This she attributed to the interest her father, an optician, took in her education



Curran making a presentation to the Children's Hospital of Warsaw, at Strathclyde University, in 1979. Behind her sits her husband, Sir Sam Curran, the university's first Principal

length used by the radar station, it resonates to the incoming radio waves and re-radiates them to much effect. It is roughly equivalent to a whole sheet of metal whose dimensions are such and which has sides equal in length to half a wavelength. Thus a few hundred such strips or wires would reflect as much energy as a whole Lancaster bomber.

Originally I suggested that wires should be suspended from balloons, because the long wavelengths that were usual in 1937 would require lengths of at least 10ft; but we found that the predominant wavelength in the German radar that we had to counter were about 50cm, so each wire or strip need only be 25cm long, and could be made light enough to fall through the air at a slow rate, and thus remain active for many minutes.

They did not get the immediate go-ahead for the use of the reflectors, however. It was not until 1941, as their knowledge of German radar grew, that Jones persuaded Churchill's adviser Frederick Lindemann to allow trials. These were undertaken, in late 1941 and early 1942, under Robert Cockburn's direction at Swanage by Mrs Joan Curran. "Her results were all that we expected," Jones recalled,

and she tried various forms of reflector ranging from wires to leaflets, each roughly the size of a page in a notebook, on which, as a refinement, propaganda

could be printed. The form that it finally favoured was a strip about 25cm long and between 1cm and 3cm wide. The material was produced and made up into packets each weighing about a pound, and the idea was that the leading aircraft in a bomber formation would throw them out at the rate of one every 10 seconds, to produce the radar equivalent of a smoke-screen, through which succeeding aircraft could fly. So much progress was made, after the years of delay, that by April 1942 enough material had been produced for it to be used by Bomber Command. It was given the code name "Window" by A.P. Rowe, the superintendent of [the Telecommunications Research Establishment] TRE.

The scheme was sanctioned by the chiefs of staff on 27 April 1942. It was the scattering of clouds of this foil by British bombers that confused the German gun-laying radar and provided a measure of protection against flak for the night raids of Bomber Command. Perhaps the greatest success of the work of Joan Curran and her team was its use where foil was dropped with great precision by the Lancasters of 617 Squadron, to synthesise a phantom invasion force of ships in the straits of Dover on the night of 5-6 June 1944. This kept Von Rummel and his commanders unsure of whether the brunt of the Allied as-

sault would fall on Normandy or in the Pas de Calais.

Early in 1944 Sam Curran was sent to the United States to work on the highly secret Manhattan Project. His wife helped him in his work on this invention of the scintillation counter – a device for measuring radioactivity that is still in use in many scientific laboratories.

However, during this period at Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, Joan gave birth to their first child, Sheila, who was to be severely mentally handicapped. When they returned to Glasgow after hostilities Joan and Sam Curran with a few friends set up the Scottish Society for the Parents of Mentally Handicapped Children, called Enable. It now has over 100 branches and more than 6,000 members. As a member of the Greater Glasgow Health Board, Joan championed the needs of the disabled; and as a Scottish constituency MP I know how much she did on the Council for Access for the Disabled, especially helping the disabled to get to university.

Among her other interests was the relationship between Strathclyde University (as, under the guidance of Sam Curran, the Royal College of Science and Technology

became) and the Technical University of Lodz in Poland. The Polish 1st Armoured Division had been based in Scotland during the war and many stayed to be integrated into Scottish society. Joan Curran established funds to help them and we still have the Lady Curran Endowment Fund to help overseas students, particularly from Poland.

In 1957 Strathclyde awarded Joan Curran a degree of Doctor of Laws which touched her greatly. Last year permanently ill, she unveiled a plaque in the Barony Hall in Sam Curran's honour and she was told that the walled garden at Ross Priory, the University of Strathclyde staff club on Loch Lomondside, was to be named the Joan Curran Summer House. In later life, this distinguished scientist had played a wonderful role in welcoming the families of new staff to Strathclyde University. She played a major part in the outstanding success of Strathclyde.

TAM DALYELL

Joan Strothers, physicist and charity founder: born Swansea 26 February 1916; married 1940 Sam Curran (d 1970, died 1998; three sons, one daughter); died Glasgow 10 February 1999.

Buddy Knox



Michael Ochs Archives / Redferns

ALL PERFORMERS are influenced by those around them, and Buddy Holly was inspired by the success of his namesake and fellow Texan, Buddy Knox. Knox's career was eclipsed by Holly's, but he was a highly rated rockabilly performer. Knox's parents ran a farm in Happy, Texas, and named their son, who was born in 1933, after a family friend, Buddy Wilson. "We didn't even have electricity or a radio," Knox told me in 1992. "I played guitar and harmonica to entertain myself. I wrote 'Hula Love' in 1947 and 'Party Doll' in 1948, which was eight years before rock 'n' roll came in."

Knox won an athletics scholarship to the West Texas State College, where he met Jimmy Bowen and Don Lanier and together they formed a group, the Serenaders. Knox recalled, "I saw Elvis Presley in Amarillo, Texas, in June 1955 and he was playing the same stuff we were playing. He told me, 'Man, if you've got a band and some good songs, get into a recording studio cause something is fixin' to happen.'"

Another up-and-coming performer, Roy Orbison, told Knox about Norman Petty's studio in Clovis, New Mexico. "Norman was an electrician who had built his own studio," said Knox. "His echo chamber was in the top of his dad's garage with a speaker at one end and a microphone at the other. Every time a truck passed by, it sounded like it was in the studio with us."

Despite the frugal conditions, Petty got an exciting rockabilly sound. He added the drummer, Dave Aldred, and first time out, in April 1956, the Serenaders recorded the cheerful "Party Doll" and the teen ballad, "I'm Stickin' With You", with Jimmy Bowen as lead vocal.

The session was sponsored by Chester Oliver, a Texas oil-man, who pressed 1,500 copies for local

stores. One of the band's DJ friends was sacked for playing the record six times in one day, but it became a territorial hit.

Opportunity knocked when Morris Levy, the owner of Roulette Records in New York, wanted to issue the single nationally. Both songs had hit potential so he released them separately – Buddy Knox and the Rhythm Orchids, so called because of their coloured stage suits, with "Party Doll", and Jimmy Bowen and the Rhythm Orchids with "I'm Stickin' With You", which Knox had co-written. One DJ, Dick Clark, refused to play "Party Doll" as he objected to the line, "I'll make love to you." Alan Freed had

no such reservations and the single topped the US charts in March 1957, with "I'm Stickin' With You" also making the Top Twenty. "I was very green," said Knox. "One minute I was on a farm in Happy, Texas and the next on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. I'd never seen buildings over three stories before."

But then Knox was drafted. "The week 'Party Doll' hit No 1, the army

decided that they needed me real bad and it meant that we couldn't come to England where 'Party Doll' was a hit," he said. "We had the London Palladium and European dates lined up. The contracts went into the garbage can and I got drunk for the first time in my life. It broke the band up."

Knox made several excellent records for Roulette including "Somebody Touched Me", "I Think I'm Gonna Kill Myself" and "The Girl with the Golden Hair". When royalties were not forthcoming, Knox, who had a degree in accountancy, knew something was wrong. "Morris Levy was a gangster and he died before he went to prison," said Knox. "Both Bobby Darin and Connie Francis warned me about him and I should have listened. As a result, Roulette ended up with all

the recordings, all the publishing, all the songwriting royalties and we got nothing."

I asked Knox if he dared to ask for his money. "Yes, and I was told no in very forceful terms. I hired a lawyer to get some money for us, he got \$4,000 but he said, 'Don't ever call me again, I've got a wife and kids and I don't want to be involved. I had to make my money on the road and I was hitting the road real hard.'

When Knox moved to Liberty Records, his vocals became more mannered and he recorded the feeble novelty songs "Chi Hua Hua" and "Ling Ting Tong". His best Liberty recording were "Lovey Dovey" (1961) and "She's Gone" (1962), which was a minor UK hit. Jimmy Bowen moved into record production and worked with Knox for Frank Sinatra's Reprise label in 1964. Four years later, Knox was invited to join United Artists by Buddy Holly's original partner, Bob Montgomery, and they made "God Knows I Love You" and "Gypsy Man" which became a US country success.

In 1977 Knox found a new audience at a rockabilly show at the Rainbow Theatre in Finsbury Park, which was recorded by EMI. In 1983 there was a concert for his 60th birthday with Tommy Sands and the Coasters, which was also recorded.

In January this year, Knox, who was about to be married for the fourth time, fell and broke his hip. The doctors discovered a terminal cancer and gave him three months to live. He planned to perform one last show in Seattle, but he died before it could take place.

SPENCER LEIGH

Buddy Wayne Knox, singer and songwriter: born Happy, Texas 20 July 1933; three times married; died Port Orchard, Washington 14 February 1999.

Dr Emrys Wyn Jones

OUTSIDE A long and distinguished career as a heart specialist at hospitals in Liverpool and his prominent roles on committees responsible for the administration of the health service in his native Wales, Emrys Wyn Jones was also a writer and book collector who served on numerous public bodies involved in the cultural life of Wales.

Having taken first class honours in Medicine and Surgery at Liverpool University in 1928, at the age of 21, he became a Doctor of Medicine in 1930, a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1933 and a Fellow in 1949. During his training at the London teaching hospitals he carried off a number of prestigious prizes.

His association with the Liverpool Royal Infirmary began in 1928 but he did not join its full-time staff until 1938. From 1945 until his retirement in 1972 he was in charge of the Cardiology Department, but also played a leading role in the hospital's administration and, from 1953, taught medicine at Liverpool University, later as Director of Cardiac Studies. He ended his career as Senior Physician at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and the Regional Cardiac Centre.

In Wales, he served on numerous committees, including those of the Welsh Hospitals Board (1952-74), and as consultant to the North Wales Hospitals, which included those at Bangor, Rhyl and Wrexham (1954-59). He became perhaps the best-known representative of the medical profession in the region. The administrative systems which he was instrumental in setting up in north Wales provided a firm basis for the implementation of the provisions ushered in by the National Health Service in 1948. He was also a keen advocate of the wider use of Welsh in medical circles and, although never active on behalf of any political party, took a stern view of those who denied the claims of Welsh nationality which, in his view, was inextricably bound up with the language.

Emrys Wyn Jones was born at Waunfawr in Caernarvonshire in 1907, the son of a Calvinistic Methodist minister, and received his secondary education at the County School in Caernarfon. His older brother, who had begun to win a reputation as a brilliant pathologist, died at the age of 23, after which it was taken for granted that he would follow the same career. From his parents he inherited the rich Welsh culture of the Llyn peninsula, in which he found great relief from the rigours of his professional life and to which he often returned in his writings; his last home was at Rhiew, near Aberdaron, almost at the extreme tip of the peninsula.

The *visor d'Ingres* which gave him greatest pleasure was the writing of local history, in both Welsh and English, and a collection of her essays, *Cyfradd Cof* ("The Enchantment of Memory", 1970). His second wife, Megan, was the widow of Thomas Jones Pierce, formerly Professor of Welsh History at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; they married in 1973. She brought to their marriage a vivacity and keen interest in all things Welsh which chimed nicely with his own.

Although a man of temperate judgement and a somewhat reserved personalty, who preferred scholarly pursuits to the public arena in which he spent his professional life, Wyn Jones gave his services to the National Eisteddfod and the Gorsedd of Bards which is closely associated with it, the National Library, the National Museum, the University of Wales, the Welsh National School of Medicine, the Welsh League of Youth, the Honourable Society of Cymnorodion, and the Denbighshire Historical Society; he was High Sheriff of his native county in 1947.

During the post-war period he was particularly concerned to see the end of National Service, offering practical advice to those expecting to appear before tribunals because they had refused conscription on grounds of conscience. He also maintained his links with the Welsh life of Liverpool, as President of both the University's Welsh Society and its Medical Students' Society. For his services to Welsh culture he was awarded the honorary degree of LLB by the University of Wales.

A fascinating insight into his views on modern surgery, especially heart transplants and his response to the ethical problems of saving life and the inevitability of death, was given in Welsh during a television interview broadcast in 1971 and published in the symposium *Dan Syr*. While not disapproving of the experimental work of Dr Christian Barnard, he deplored the publicity surrounding heart transplants and spoke movingly of the relationship between doctor and patient when death is known to be imminent. It was his Quaker faith, with its emphasis on pacifism, the value of silence in the face of the great mysteries, and George Fox's dictum that there is a part of God in all men and women, which sustained him at such moments and, indeed, throughout the greater part of his life.

MEIC STEPHENS

Emrys Wyn Jones, surgeon and writer: born Waunfawr, Caernarvonshire 23 May 1907; Head of the Cardiology Department, Liverpool Royal Infirmary 1945-72; married 1936 Enid Llywelyn-Williams (died 1967; one son, one daughter), 1973 Megan Jones Pierce (one stepson, one stepdaughter); died Bangor, Gwynedd 14 January 1999.

Dr Anne Spoerry

FLAMMETTA ROCCO'S obituary of Anne Spoerry [10 February] was excellent, writes Dr Hugh de Gauville, but I would point out that it is hardly possible to hold clinics "under the wing" of a Cherokee

235 or Anne's later Piper low-wing monoplanes, of which the wings are some two-three feet above the ground. What "Mama Dakari" held her clinics under was, when one was available, a thorn tree.

Eilean Pearcey

EILEAN PEARCEY specialised in action drawings of dancers. Her work can be found in the Australian Museum of the Performing Arts, at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia and in private collections, but the bulk of her output, several thousand drawings and paintings, were at her suggestion gifted to Surrey University. She admired greatly what they had done for dance and they returned the compliment by awarding her an honorary MA.

Born in Melbourne in 1901, she came from a family of soldiers and lawyers. Like many women of her generation she seemed rather more English than Australian. She was educated at the best schools and took her BA at Melbourne University before going on to study painting at what has now become the Victorian College of the Arts. She had a gift for portraiture, rather less for landscape, and it was only when she first saw Anna Pavlova and her company on tour in Australia in 1922 that she found her true subject matter.

For the next 65 years she would concentrate on trying to capture the movement of dance in impressionistic sketches none the less based on close observation. Just as her great friend Sheila Hawkins, the children's book illustrator, looked at animals, so Pearcey studied the human body and its musculature. She became a familiar figure in London, where she moved in 1931, to



Pearcey: a hopeless businesswoman — Ida Kar

be seen most evenings at the theatre, at the side of the stalls or in the wings, scribbling in the near dark. Many of these quick sketches are among her best work, for she had a tendency to rework and rework to the point where the freshness of the first impression faded.

She was at her best with modern dance. She adored Martha Graham and was one of the first people to support Robin Howard and Robert Cohan when they sought to establish a Graham School in London. She did many drawings of the London Contemporary Dance company, and its first generation of dancers. Particularly successful was a series of William Louther in Peter Maxwell Davies' *Vesuvius Icons*. A number of these were bought by the composer. She became a close friend, too, of Marcel Marceau, whose work she much admired and her many drawings of him and his famous character Bip have often been reproduced.

But her greatest enthusiasm was for Indian dance, introduced to it by Uday Shankar and benefiting from the important work of the Asian Music Circle run by Ayana Angadi. Pearcey saw all the dancers and musicians who came through London and many, like Ritha Devi and Ram Gopal, became close friends. She visited India, gave a talk on *Woman's Hour* on the temples of Bhutaneshwar, and came under the influence of the yoga teacher BKS Iyengar.

Her drawings were used to illustrate his handbook on yoga and from being an enthusiastic pupil, Pearcey, in late middle age, became an outstanding teacher. In fact she continued teaching long after any normal retirement age, claiming that the ILERA had lost her records. She was certainly well past 80 when she stopped teaching, though she still did her daily exercises, including the headstand which she had ready to demonstrate.

Small and wiry, she kept very fit and until the last years of her life would cross London by bus or even on foot to hear a lecture at the Horniman or see a performance at the Place.

She was a hopeless businesswoman and her work was much less well known than it deserved. Despite a successful exhibition at Victor Musgrave's Gallery One in the early Fifties, she subse-



Pearcey was at her best drawing modern dance

quently had difficulty in getting things together. She could never decide what she wanted to show and fell out with virtually everyone who tried to promote or help her work. Even when editors like Peter Williams of *Dance and Dancers* offered her opportunities, she missed deadlines and complained about the results when her drawings were used. She became reluctant to part with anything, even when she could have done with the money.

She lived on in her increasingly Miss Havisham-like studio until a couple of years ago when she could no longer look after even her very simple needs. She never seemed to eat much and her fridge was a real danger zone, full of little scraps of things that might have been there for months. She just could not be bothered, preferring to spend hours a day on the telephone or

writing to a wide range of friends both in this country and abroad. She kept in close touch with her niece Christine Fairhall in Perth, Western Australia, and much appreciated it when she came to London to help sort out the studio.

Her marriage to the distinguished structural engineer Ramsay Moon broke up and they were divorced shortly after the Second World War. But the central tragedy of her life was the death through meningitis of her only son, Felix, at the age of 13. He was a brilliant child, and his loss was something she felt every day of her life.

JOHN DRUMMOND

Eilean Blake Pearcey, artist: born Melbourne, Victoria 28 May 1901; married Ramsay Moon (one son deceased; marriage dissolved); died London 1 February 1999.

Mike Elliott

MIKE ELLIOTT was a committed artist and inspirational teacher at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts for over 40 years. It seems appropriate, if death can ever be seen thus, that he suffered a heart attack while on his way to teach there; he never regained consciousness and died in University College Hospital opposite the Slade School of Fine Art which he had attended as a student.

Elliott was part of that generation which benefited from post-war funding of art and artists. For the first time, those from a working-class background were able to spend their entire lives concerned with art. Born in Clapham, south London in 1933, and brought up in Tooting, where his family had moved before the Second World War, he gained entry to a grammar school.

At 16, he decided he wanted to paint and persuaded his parents by talking in terms of commercial art. With the financial assistance of the old London County Council, he attended Camberwell School of Art and sat for both the intermediate and National Diploma of



Elliott: evolved Constructivist

Design exams successfully. When he was subsequently accepted as an undergraduate at the Slade, it was once again the LCC that made it possible. He spent three years there, including a post-graduate year, a very productive time for him. The life of the art-school student suited him perfectly; he even played in the Slade School Jazz Band.

After graduating in 1957, he married a fellow student, Robina Evans, and with French government grant the pair went to live and work in Paris. At this stage his work became entirely abstract and his interest was in the more rational approach of the Constructivists. He enjoyed his time in Paris but never felt at ease there. He exhibited with various galleries, including Gimpel Fils in London.

On his return to England, a chance meeting with the painter and teacher Joe Dixon led to the part-time teaching at Camberwell that started Elliott's 40-year association with the school. Whatever discipline he taught — painting or drawing or fine cut or woodblock — it was always art that was being discussed; he

did not believe in merely developing craft skills.

In the early Sixties he and I set up a studio and silkscreen workshop in Kennington and around this group of Constructivists was formed called KoS.

There were exhibitions and contacts

with other groups abroad. Most important was the Group Mardi, the revolutionary group in Buenos Aires. In the Seventies and Eighties he designed and painted a number of murals in south London, often working with students on these as a project.

Mike Elliott's work evolved from Constructivism in order to accommodate a growing interest in German expressionism. It is this that really marks him out as a distinctive artist. He took the classical and rational approach of Constructivism and applied it to what was dominantly a Romantic art form.

A memorial exhibition of his work has been proposed for the Centenary Gallery at Camberwell School of Art in September.

BRIAN ELLIOTT

Michael James Elliott, artist and teacher: born London 19 January 1933; Lecturer, Camberwell School of Art 1959-99; married 1957 Robina Evans (deceased; two sons, one daughter); died London 29 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

The Duke of York, 39; Maj-Gen Peter Baldwin, consultant, Television Corporation, 72; Sir John Collyer, former chairman, USM Texon, 72; The Rev Gwynne Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 53; Sir Nicholas Fenn, former High Commissioner to India, 63; Lord Forbes, premier Lord of Scotland, 81; Mr John Freeman, international relations consultant and former diplomat, 84; Lord Henniker, former ambassador, 85; Mr Andrew Jameson, swimmer, 34; Dr Robin Jeffrey, chairman and chief executive, Scottish Nuclear, 60; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis champion, 37; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 84; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 60; Sir John N. Nicholson, former chairman, Ocean Steam Ship Co, 88; Sir Daniel Pettit, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 84; Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of

homes for battered women, and writer, 60; Mr Peter Price, former MEE 57; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 59; Mr Colin Sharman, senior partner, KPMG, 56; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT (Holdings), 70; Dr Jenny Tonge MP, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik), astronomer, 1473; David Garrick, actor, 1717; Mervie O'Brien (Estelle Marie O'Brien Thompson, actress, 1911; Stan Kenton (Stanley Newcomb), jazz band-leader, 1912; Deaths: Charles Blondin (Jean-François Gravéot), tightrope walker, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, 1916; André-Paul-Guillaume Gide, novelist, 1951. On this day: the phonograph was patented by Thomas Alva Edison, 1878; the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its forces from Cuba, 1963; after failing to come to an agreement over the fishing dis-

putes, Iceland broke off diplomatic relations with Britain, 1976. Today is the Feast Day of St Barbara, St Beatus of Liebana, St Boniface of Lausanne, St Conrad of Piacenza and St Mesrop.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Nina Levitt, "February Fables (iii): Mignard, The Marquise de Seigneyrol and Two of her Children", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Peppiatt, "Francis Bacon: a brilliant fool like me?", 1pm. British Museum: Rowena Loverance, "The Reformation in Art", 11.30am.

DINNERS

British Academy of Forensic Sciences The Friends' Dinner of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences was held yesterday evening at the Law Society, London WC2. Lord Mackay of Clashfern presided. Mr Anthony Glass QC and Mr

Jeremy Roberts QC were the main speakers.

European-Atlantic Group Lord Judd of Portsea presided at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday evening at St James's Court Hotel, London SW1. Mr Christopher Cox, Chairman of the House Policy Committee, United States Congress, was the guest speaker. His subject was "US Policy and International Security".

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.08pm. United Synagogues: 0151-343 5555; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-550 1663; Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-239 2573; New London Synagogue (Mitsvah): 0171-323 1026.

CURIOS. A word's diversity. Pluck is not only the entrails of an animal ground into sausages, but also an act of picking andfeat of courage. One is restless until it's settled. Johnson posits a Saxon origin, pliocian and notes, "it is very generally and licentiously used, particularly by Shakespeare." Courage — pluck up

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
pluck, n. and v.
heart — linked, but as for the heart, liver and other lights of an animal", he moots Erse, plughk — "I know not whether derived

from the English, rather than the English from the Erse." The OED takes a more scientific approach, and the word fills several fascinating pages, which add Sevenies black slang for wine, and the age-old plughk — a rose — women's euphemism for urination when the privy was in the garden.

OBITUARIES/7

LINGUISTIC NOTES

Ins and outs of the meaning of 'is'

THE FATE of the 42nd President of the United States may have depended on his theories of language. In his testimony Clinton expounded on the semantics of the present tense and of the words "alone", "cause" and, notoriously, "sex". Clinton realised that language does have a systematic though complex relation to reality. His semantic arguments, if ultimately unsuccessful, show an acute understanding of the logic and psychology of language.

The world is analog: language is digital. A tape measure shows that people's heights vary continuously, but when we talk about them we face a multiple choice between "tall" and "short". We cannot make a sound halfway between "warm" and "cold" to refer to something tepid, and people who describe themselves as "middle-aged" and "wise" cannot pinpoint the instant they became so. Words are anchored to endpoints, but the continuum between them may be up for grabs.

Clinton suggested he was not "alone" with Lewinsky because people were in the Oval Office complex at the time. An intriguing point: since none of us is marooned on an asteroid but shares the planet with five billion others, none of us is ever unambiguously alone. Exactly how far away, how inaudible or invisible or unnoticed before we are willing to say that someone is "alone"? At what point in the continuum of bodily

contact do we say that "sex" has occurred?

How many times, how closely spaced,

before it is "sexual relations"

or a "sexual relationship".

When consenting adults come together, does one of them "cause" contact, or are the actions of the other the cause?

Or is it "sex"?

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Homeless? But you're eating Sugar Puffs

DURING THE Eighties, many people believed the infuriating myth that everyone in the South-east was a yuppie. In which case who, I wondered, cleaned the drains in the south? If they were blocked, did we say: "Oh what a pong, we will have to call a northerner?"

So what must it be like to live in Islington? Everyone knows Islington exists only for yuppies. If there's a working class in Islington, it's assumed to be for ironic purposes. Maybe, among the brasseries and art dealers, there's a nostalgic café with a greasy-spoon theme, where you can order bacon, egg, free-range ketchup, two slices of deep-fried cappuccino and a large organic vinegar with five sugars.

Certainly there shouldn't be a need for homeless centres. Unless the council has set one up for people with only one house, so they've got somewhere to go while the neighbours are all off on holiday in Tuscany.

But beyond the facade lies the 10th-poorest borough in Britain with less green space than any other borough in London, and 60 per cent of its residents in public

housing. Many of Islington's 10,000 registered homeless live in centres, awaiting acceptance onto the council housing list. The one I visited had 60 rooms on two floors, with a gloomy concrete corridor that made each footstep echo. So as you walked along it, you expected to hear the clanging of a large bunch of keys, the slamming of a metal door and the words "Norman Stanley Fletcher... you are a habitual criminal who accepts arrest as an occupational hazard."

Abdul, from Somalia, invited me into his room, but insisted I waited until he'd tidied it first. This didn't take long, as the only objects in it were a bed, a fridge, a Biro and a box of Sugar Puffs.

A teenager, he's an asylum-seeker, a phrase that is so often preceded by the word "bugos" that many people must believe that to be the official term, like "New Labour". He didn't speak much English, so handed me a sheet of paper on which his story was written. His father was a vegetable trader in Mogadishu when a clan took over his area and demanded a weekly payment. One day his father couldn't pay, so they shot him

and Abdul's cousin died. From then on the remaining family members were prisoners in their own house, until Abdul escaped in a lorry to a refugee camp in Nairobi, then borrowed the money to come to Britain and hoped for refuge.

Yet the attitude of much of Britain to Abdul's plight seems to be, "Yeah, but if he's that hard done by, how come he's able to afford Sugar Puffs?"

A new bill is being introduced to make it harder to claim asylum. Refugees will receive food vouchers instead of benefits. Also, they'll be expected to initiate their claim through official departments in their own countries. Which is fine, as long as the murderers you're fleeing from are reasonable about processing bureaucracy. Then you can ask them, "Excuse me, I'd like to move to Britain because yesterday you shot my family. Could you sign a form to confirm this please, otherwise they'll be ever such a backlog at the branch office in Islington."

Abdul kept apologising for not speaking much English, and I wondered how many times he must have meandered around

MARK STEEL



ON LOCATION

infathomable council offices, searching for the right counter to queue at all day - while someone bellowed, "You need the fourth floor, dear", as if he were 90 years old, shaking his head at the way he couldn't understand such a simple instruction. "All I talk," he said slowly, "is Somali, Swahili and Arabic."

The modern refugee has two hurdles to cross to get to safety. One resident, who'd recently left the centre, came to Britain after fleeing a government death squad in a canoe-chase down the Zambezi. What must it be like to survive that, and then be faced with the even more complicated

task of not getting deported straight back there?

If Hollywood were to make a modern version of a classic escape story, it would hardly be like *The Great Escape* or *Cry Freedom*. The hero would be across the border in the first 10 minutes, and the rest of the film would show him waiting all day for a food voucher, before being told he was at the wrong building and needed social services, but that the office was shut until Friday.

Other residents include teenage single mums, and women who have fled violent partners. Which may explain how there remains a certain camaraderie. Single mums, the homeless and refugees all now have something in common, each taking it in turns to be blamed by New Labour for trying to wreck the country. Maybe I'll go back next week and find that Ken Livingstone has moved in.

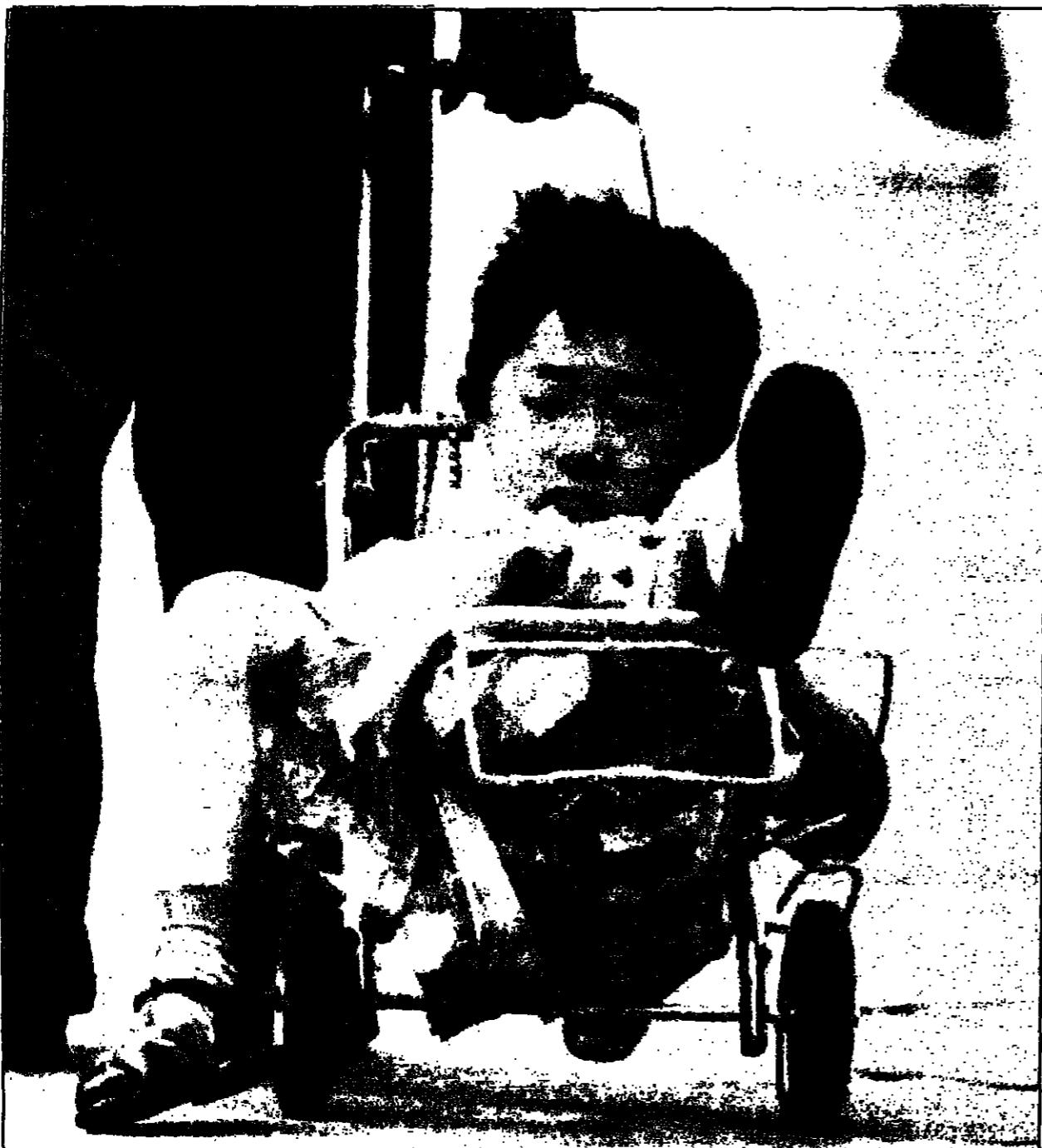
But the toughest side of living here must be that there's nowhere to escape the reality that you're poor. Most of us, even at our most skint, have a cosy hideaway. Even on the 18th floor of a tower block, there will be a

warm corner with a lamp and a record-player. When I lived in a squat, the trick was to make one room habitable, so that you could forget that the rest of the house had no floorboards and there was a half-assembled motorbike in the kitchen. But in the homeless unit, the poverty follows you everywhere - to sightings of cockroaches, and sinks in which brown water gurgles. And to the dank cupboard atmosphere that doesn't only smell but also feels permeated with damp and mould, stale cigarettes and distant chip fat, with everything turning slowly yellow.

Despite this, a buoyant one-year-old baby was bounding along the corridor, giggling into any room that was open. His mother spoke, among other languages, French. So I tried to converse, using my stammering, uncertain and south London version of the language.

She was from Rwanda, she said. I asked her how she'd got out, but she kept replying "by plane". What, I wonder, is French for "Yes, but how did you escape those people we saw on the news who were slaughtering

Twenty years ago Peking launched its brutal one child family policy. Result: 65 million pampered only children. By Teresa Poole



China's cities are awash with doted-upon only children - and no one seems sure whether this is good or bad AP

China's spoilt Little Emperors

I have heard that when they first go to university, some only children can't do anything, even wash their own clothes," said 20-year-old Li Yueming, an undergraduate at Tianjin city's Nankai University. "But if their parents have been educated, they won't spoil their child so much."

Her classmate, Liu Lu, 19, agreed: "In most one-child families, the parents live through the Cultural Revolution. They lost so much during that period that they want to regain it all through their child. So they sometimes spend too much money, and maybe it makes the child a little selfish."

These two young women, both only children, are the product of one of the most brutal exercises in social engineering ever seen. Two decades ago, in 1979, the Chinese Communist Party launched its controversial "one-child-family" policy. In total, China now has 65 million only children, almost all of whom live in urban areas, where the "one child policy" has meant just that.

The first only children born under this regime - such as Ms Li and Ms Liu - have now reached adulthood. Meanwhile, the younger generation growing up in China is characterised as pampered and spoilt "Little Emperors".

In rural areas, home to 70 per cent of Chinese, the policy since the mid-Eighties has increasingly allowed a second child, particularly if the first was a girl. But the traditional desire for sons and large families remains stubborn.

As the old saying puts it: "A married daughter is like splashed water" - ie, a waste (female infanticide always was a problem in imperial China). Family planning rules have exacerbated this age-old preference for male offspring, assisted by ultrasound technology and selective abortion. The result is an unusually high proportion of baby boys, building a store of social pressures for the future.

There is much debate inside China on all these questions. It is also difficult to separate the impact of mandatory family planning from the sweep of economic and social reforms during the same 20-year period. For instance, almost any child growing up now, with or without siblings, is massively spoilt compared to youngsters before 1979.

The Chinese government claims that the population is 300 million lower than it would have been without the one-child policy, although part of that trend would have occurred anyway with economic development. The steepest decline in the crude birth rate in fact took place before the policy

was introduced, falling from 33.4 per 1,000 in 1970, to 18.25 in 1978, and 16.57 in 1997. If you look at the average number of children a woman bears, this fell from 5.8 in 1970, to about 1.9 nowadays (with the figure for urban residents below 1.3).

That still leaves more than 20 million babies born each year in China, and China's population, now 1.3 billion, is forecast to peak around 2050 at 1.6 billion. By then, the second major impact will be evident: a quarter of China's population will be over 60 years old - hence the urgency of developing the country's nascent pensions and social insurance system.

By that time, the imbalance in the rural sex ratio may also have caused problems, as tens of millions of Chinese farmers fail to find wives. When Nature is left to herself, 106 boys are born for every 100 girl babies.

According to Chinese figures, the sex ratio for first-born babies is basically normal, but rises alarmingly with each subsequent child: 121.100 for second-borns, 124 for third-borns, and 131 for fourth babies, according to the 1990 census.

Parents lost so much during the Cultural Revolution they want to regain it all through their child

Plenty of other, bigger, surveys point to a more complicated picture. Materially-speaking, spending on children is certainly huge, accounting for up to one-third of total family income in the big cities.

A study of middle-school students in Hubei province found that at kindergarten and primary school, only children were mentally and physically superior to those with siblings, but that their behaviour was worse. However, by middle school, those differences in character had disappeared. On psychological ratings, against expectations, loneliness was more of a problem among those with siblings.

Part of the reason may be that Chinese urban children often attend full-time kindergarten from as young as three years old. Older urban children are also routinely sent to summer camps or quasi-military training. Luo Xubin, at the Young Pioneer Centre's Department of Social Activity, said: "Last summer, we organised 300 or 400 children from Peking to go to a military base in Hebei province. That was a kind of hardship camp. At the base, the children learned to take care of their daily life, the dormitory had military training, held bonfire parties, and fished in the streams. It lasted five days. Getting out of the family, the children could use their own initiative."

The more worrying social problem probably comes from the huge pressure which parents these days put on their only children. Ms Fu quoted a survey in counties and towns in Jiangxi province which found that one-third of five-year-olds were already learning musical instruments, something which Chinese parents believe will increase their child's intelligence.

In Peking at the China Children's Centre, which is run by the Women's Federation, expensive piano lessons are on offer. "We have several hundred students learning the piano," said one staff member. "If the parents keep coming with the child, then the child continues to learn. However, more than half drop out after one or two years."

A little-known fact is that, under China's family planning rules, these only children, if they marry another only child, will be permitted to have two children.

Cong Jun, a senior official at the State Family Planning Commission, whose only child is now 21, said: "We find that when our people are better educated, they tend not to have children at all. It's a change of attitude to marriage and childbearing. The young people in the cities now, a lot of them do not want to have any children. "But I can tell you, I really want to have two grandchildren."

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices



THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993

Licence Exemption Application by Geoffrey Osborne Ltd ('the Applicant')

Company Registration Number: 873093

Principal address of the Applicant:

Osborne House,

Stockbridge Road,

Chester,

West Sussex PO19 2LL

Directors of the Applicant:

Geoffrey Clement Howard Osborne

Anthony John Kelley

Brian Kenneth Everard

John Frank Oliver

Graham Daines

Franklyn David Burden

Stephen Liddle

Nicholas Guy Anthony Yandal

Pamela Agnew Osborne

Brian John Watkins

The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 7(1) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence to carry out work which otherwise he would be required to do for the operation of trains or connection with certain maintenance activities, on the grounds that it is not appropriate for the full licensing provisions to be applied to such operations. Any person who wishes to make an application or objection will respect the proposed exemption should contact the Office of the Rail Regulator.

Mr Alan Drury

Deputy General Manager

Customer Services Group

Office of the Rail Regulator

1 Waterlooville Square

238-242 Holloway Road, London EC1N 2TQ

2nd Floor, Room 10, 1999

Date 19 February 1999

Chris Bell

The Rail Regulator

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For the later babies, they know they have to pay a fine," said Xie Zhenming, at the China Population Information & Research Centre, "so they don't want to leave things to chance." (This is not true in ethnic minority areas, such as Tibet, where there is no bias against girl babies.)

Xie's survey of Zhejiang province, in east China, highlighted the social reasons for the imbalance between the number of girls and boys. In the north, well-developed co-operative industries were able to provide pensions, health care, and even funeral costs to support the elderly without sons. In the south there was no such provision, agricultural work needed men and the social pressures to continue the family line were much stronger.

While the Chinese countryside is mired in traditional prejudices, China's cities are awash with well-dressed, doted-upon only children - and no one seems sure whether this is good or bad. At Nankai University, a group of eight students, all only children from various cities, took umbrage at the general notion that their generation would exhibit problems, compared with children with siblings.

The Chinese government claims that the population is 300 million lower than it would have been without the one-child policy, although part of that trend would have occurred anyway with economic development. The steepest decline in the crude birth rate in fact took place before the policy

opportunity to lavish them on material goods. On the train back to Peking, I met four Chinese boys on a school trip, all only children aged between 11 and 13, from the north-east city of Jinzhou. Did they ever feel they were spoilt? "Yes," they chorused gleefully. "Whatever is good to eat, my mother gets for me," said 12-year-old Zhang Xi, who was at least two stone overweight. Here, perhaps, were some of China's famed "Little Emperors", whose parents had just spent about two weeks' average wages sending their precious ones on a four-day educational visit to Tianjin and Peking.

China's government is well aware of the potential social pitfalls of its family planning policy, but also points to some obvious advantages of being an only child. Fu

Puffs

SCIENCE



Dr Arpad Pusztai: forced to retire as the victim of a conspiracy or author of flawed research?

PA

Pusztai: the verdict

GM food: safe or unsafe? First we must ask experts in this field how they rate the research work that led to this most recent controversy, says Steve Connor

The case of Arpad Pusztai – the scientist forced to retire over his public comments about genetically modified (GM) potatoes – has become a cause célèbre among the environmentalists. He claims to have shown that GM food can stunt the growth of laboratory rats, harm brain development and damage the immune system. If he is right, it represents a hammer-blow to the biotechnology industry, which is keen to exploit advances in genetics. If he is wrong, Dr Pusztai could be accused of whipping up public hysteria.

Last week, a group of 20 scientists signed a memo in support of Dr Pusztai, stating that the Hungarian-born researcher stands fully vindicated. Dr Pusztai's data from experiments he conducted at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen clearly show, the memo says, that when laboratory rats were fed GM potatoes, their internal organs failed to grow fully and their immune systems were suppressed. They concluded that Dr Pusztai's research report would be acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

It is this last claim that has been put to the test by *The Independent*. Dr Pusztai's report became publicly available this week, and we asked one of Britain's leading experts, Professor Tom Sanders of King's College London, to comment on whether it would pass muster with genuine scientific referees. Professor Sanders concludes (see below) that Pusztai's work fails to reach a standard acceptable for a peer-reviewed journal.

Science is only science if it has passed through review by experts before being published in a journal. The 20 "experts", mostly from abroad, who signed the memo say Pusztai's research is of high quality. This is not the view of other scientists who saw it.

The story began in 1995, when the Scottish Office funded a three-year project involving three centres: the Rowett, Durham University and the Scottish Crop Research Institute. The aim was

to identify ways of making crops pest-resistant, with minimum side-effects.

Dr Pusztai's role, as an expert on toxic plant proteins called lectins, was to undertake a series of feeding experiments using GM potatoes and laboratory rats. His particular interest was a lectin called GNA, found in the bulbs of snowdrops, which acts as a natural pesticide. According to Dr Pusztai's report no other lectin-producing GM plants were used in the experiments, although he does say he performed some "analytical" work with GM potatoes expressing another, more toxic lectin, Con A, from the jackbean plant.

This is a key point because, according to an audit investigation into Dr Pusztai's work (ordered by the Rowett following his statements on TV's *World in Action*), he had become confused over whether he was talking about GM potatoes expressing GNA or ordinary potato

Reviewed journal, which we passed to Professor Sanders.

Dr Pusztai fed the rats a diet of raw, baked or boiled potatoes. Some of the potatoes, he says, were genetically modified with the GNA lectin and some had GNA added to unmodified potatoes. A diet that solely consists of potatoes is so nutritionally poor that he sometimes added a protein supplement, otherwise the experiment would breach Home Office regulations limiting the suffering of animals. Two types of feeding trial took place: one over a 10-day period, the other over 100 days. His report states there was only one 100-day experiment, where extensive protein supplements had to be used. He found the liver weights of the animals in this trial actually improved when they were fed GM potatoes, and put this down to the protein supplement. Dr Pusztai said the long-term trial was only preliminary.

parent line. This again indicated that digestion and absorption of nutrients of transgenic potato diets was retarded in comparison with ordinary potato diets," Dr Pusztai writes.

A test of the rats' immune systems during this experiment also indicated that the animals fed transgenic potatoes were almost always more suppressed. Dr Pusztai claims that when free GNA was added to a diet of unmodified potatoes, he did not see this suppression. In other words, there was something about the act of genetic modification itself that has led to the effect he has observed. Environmentalists jumped on this as evidence that all GM food is unsafe.

Dr Pusztai's conclusions were ambiguous: "Four feeding trials were carried out ... In all four experiments, feeding transgenic potatoes to rats induced major and in most instances highly significant changes in the weights of some or most of their vital organs ...

The growth rate of rats fed potato diets was slightly but significantly less than that of rats fed a high-quality control diet, but the presence of GNA, whether added to potato-based diets or expressed in the transgenic [plant] had no significant effect on weight gain and weight change compared to parent potato lines."

It was one of the 10 day experiments code name D242 – where Dr Pusztai claims to have observed significant effects which indicate that GM food is dangerous. According to Dr Pusztai, rats in this experiment were fed GM potatoes, enhanced with the GNA snowdrop lectin, as well as ordinary potatoes and potatoes spliced with "free" GNA. Dr Pusztai claims the growth of rats was significantly reduced on a diet of boiled potatoes, and more so on one of raw potatoes, as expected owing to the low nutritional value of potatoes compared with a high protein diet.

"However, in this instance the difference between the final body weight and empty body weight of rats (accounting for food in the gut lumen) which were fed raw, transgenic potato diets was significantly higher than that of rats given diets containing the raw

which had Con A added to them in concentrations 5,000 times greater than would occur naturally. The audit, conducted by four scientists, two from the Rowett and two from outside, concluded that the only time the rats in the Pusztai experiment showed any signs of stunted growth was when they were fed Con A in these high concentrations."

"Therefore, the audit committee is of the opinion that the existing data do not support any suggestion that the consumption of rats of transgenic potatoes expressing GNA has an effect on the growth, organ development or immune function," the audit report stated.

In answer to this criticism, Dr Pusztai compiled his own "alternative report" in which he details what he did and the results he obtained. It is this report, which his supporters claim to be of sufficient standard for publication in a peer-

Reviewed journal, which we passed to Professor Sanders.

Dr Pusztai fed the rats a diet of raw, baked or boiled potatoes. Some of the potatoes, he says, were genetically modified with the GNA lectin and some had GNA added to unmodified potatoes. A diet that solely consists of potatoes is so nutritionally poor that he sometimes adds a protein supplement, otherwise the experiment would breach Home Office regulations limiting the suffering of animals. Two types of feeding trial took place: one over a 10-day period, the other over 100 days. His report states there was only one 100-day experiment, where extensive protein supplements had to be used. He found the liver weights of the animals in this trial actually improved when they were fed GM potatoes, and put this down to the protein supplement. Dr Pusztai said the long-term trial was only preliminary.

parent line. This again indicated that digestion and absorption of nutrients of transgenic potato diets was retarded in comparison with ordinary potato diets," Dr Pusztai writes.

A test of the rats' immune systems during this experiment also indicated that the animals fed transgenic potatoes were almost always more suppressed. Dr Pusztai claims that when free GNA was added to a diet of unmodified potatoes, he did not see this suppression. In other words, there was something about the act of genetic modification itself that has led to the effect he has observed. Environmentalists jumped on this as evidence that all GM food is unsafe.

Dr Pusztai's conclusions were ambiguous: "Four feeding trials were carried out ... In all four experiments, feeding transgenic potatoes to rats induced major and in most instances highly significant changes in the weights of some or most of their vital organs ...

The growth rate of rats fed potato diets was slightly but significantly less than that of rats fed a high-quality control diet, but the presence of GNA, whether added to potato-based diets or expressed in the transgenic [plant] had no significant effect on weight gain and weight change compared to parent potato lines."

It was one of the 10 day experiments code name D242 – where Dr Pusztai claims to have observed significant effects which indicate that GM food is dangerous. According to Dr Pusztai, rats in this experiment were fed GM potatoes, enhanced with the GNA snowdrop lectin, as well as ordinary potatoes and potatoes spliced with "free" GNA. Dr Pusztai claims the growth of rats was significantly reduced on a diet of boiled potatoes, and more so on one of raw potatoes, as expected owing to the low nutritional value of potatoes compared with a high protein diet.

"However, in this instance the difference between the final body weight and empty body weight of rats (accounting for food in the gut lumen) which were fed raw, transgenic potato diets was significantly higher than that of rats given diets containing the raw

"THIS DOCUMENT reports four feeding studies with transgenic potatoes. The document has not been carefully prepared and is not up to the standard required for publication in a good scientific journal. The tables are not clear, and the captions do not make it clear whether the results are expressed as mean with SEM or SD (two statistical ways of expressing the possible error in calculating an average). The food intakes are not adequately described – this data is essential for interpretation of the data. The dietary design of the first three studies is fundamentally flawed, as the diets did not contain adequate amounts of protein and the intake of nutrients and anti-nutrients differed between the transgenic and control animals."

"An intake of 100g protein/kg diet is regarded as the minimum amount for growing rats, and results in some degree of malnutrition, particularly when under stress such as pregnancy. Most commercial rat diets contain protein at 200g/kg diet to support normal growth. The first three studies use between 55.6 and 72.5g protein/kg. This level of protein was not adequate to sustain normal growth and development in the rats. The transgenic potatoes contained 20 per cent less protein than the parent variety but it appears no attempt was made to ensure that the protein content of the diets was similar. Thus differences between the parent variety and the transgenic animals could be attributed to differences in protein intake."

"It is unclear why a diet of raw potatoes was used, given that they are renowned for containing high levels of natural toxins. The study generalises conclusions made from the use of raw potatoes to the use of cooked potatoes."

"It is well documented that protein malnutrition in rats leads to decreased growth rate, changes in gut morphology and hepatic atrophy features that were observed in these studies. The report gives the impression that these dietary aspects of the study were considered post hoc. Why were the potatoes not analysed before the diets were formulated? And why was the lower protein content in the transgenic line not compensated for by additional protein?"

Professor Sanders casts doubt on the statistical analysis that led Dr Pusztai to conclude that the brains of rats fed GM potatoes were affected by their diet. "It is odd that differences in brain weight were reported, as brain weight is generally not influenced by diet in adult rats," he says. "The statistical analyses is muddled. The tables do not indicate the number of animals in each

How to get blood out of a bone...



The potential for transforming human cells sets Lewis Wolpert's pulse racing, in this, the first of his new columns

WOW! IT IS very rare that I have such a strong reaction to a scientific paper; a real surprise and a sense of astonishment. Most papers in the journals add to the body of knowledge and, while they can be very interesting, excitement is rare. The last time I had such a reaction was over 10 years ago, when I first saw pictures of the zebra-like stripes of gene expression in the early fruit fly embryo that foreshadowed the formation of the fly's body segments.

The new work comes from Italy and shows how cells in the brain are much more clever and versatile than anyone could have imagined.

During development of our brain, and that of all vertebrates, there is a layer of cells lining the wall of the tube that will give rise to the brain that gives rise to all the nerve cells, neurons, of the brain. These are stem cells. When they divide into two daughter cells, the innermost daughter cell becomes a neuron and migrates away from the wall. The other daughter cell remains attached to the wall and becomes now a mother cell as the process is repeated, and again the inner daughter becomes a neuron. Only recently has evidence been provided which shows that, even in the adult brain, there are still stem cells that can divide to give rise to neurons.

This has very important implications, as nerve cell themselves cannot divide to give more nerve cells, but can only come from stem cells and these were thought to disappear when growth and development

were completed. There is thus in the adult brain the capacity to make new nerve cells, and so repair and replace nerve cells that may be lost due to damage or disease processes.

There were also a few reports that things were even more remarkable, as muscle cells were observed in the brain and were quite common in a particular type of brain tumour. But muscle cells have a quite different origin from that of nerve cells. They come from a region of the embryo thought to be as different from that from which nerve cells come as a

blood cells have only a life of a few weeks. If the division of these stem cells is blocked, by for example, X-irradiation, blood cell formation ceases with very serious consequences. But it is possible to rescue the situation by injecting stem cells from another animal. With a high-risk experiment – that is, with the chance of success being very low – the researchers injected the brain stem cells into the mice that had been irradiated to see if the brain stem cells could populate the bone marrow and, in their new environment, be persuaded to make blood cells. The mice did very well and, five months later, they had unequivocal evidence – the mice blood cells had come from the neural stem cells that they had injected.

They were sure because the cells they had injected carried a molecular marker that made them distinguishable from those of the mouse into whom they had been injected.

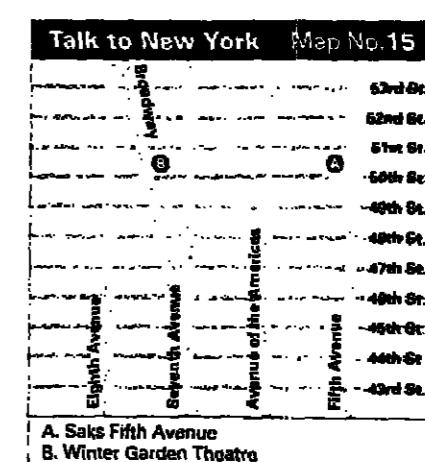
No one yet knows how the cells in the bone marrow instructed the neural stem cells to make blood cells. It is totally unexpected that signals exist which can transform one cell type into another – English into Sanskrit.

But it opens up many exciting possibilities to manipulate stem cells recently isolated from early human embryos. These cells were trumpeted as being the answer to various tissue replacement procedures, from heart muscle to insulin-producing cells and liver. I suspected there was more hype than hope, but this new work suggests I was rather pessimistic.

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THE INDEPENDENT

O branded new world

Signs is an exhibition which insists that everything we see is an invitation to consume. By Kate Mikhail

You enter the temple to advertising through a 50-metre long corridor, piped music caressing you on your journey. In the distance, a mural of the Virgin Mary looms up: the mother of all brand names, with surely the world's best-known lifestyle product to sell. The man behind Signs, an exhibition on show in east London's Brick Lane, seems to think that today's global brand names are giving the Virgin Mary a run for her money, and says he is fascinated by the idea of "branding as religion".

"Are you going to go to the local Nike temple or the local gospel church?" asks Shubhamkar Ray, art director of urban fashion-wear company CAT. It's a rhetorical question. For many young people today, he argues, there is no choice: "Everything is commodified [sic] and sold to people. Branding is their cultural landscape."

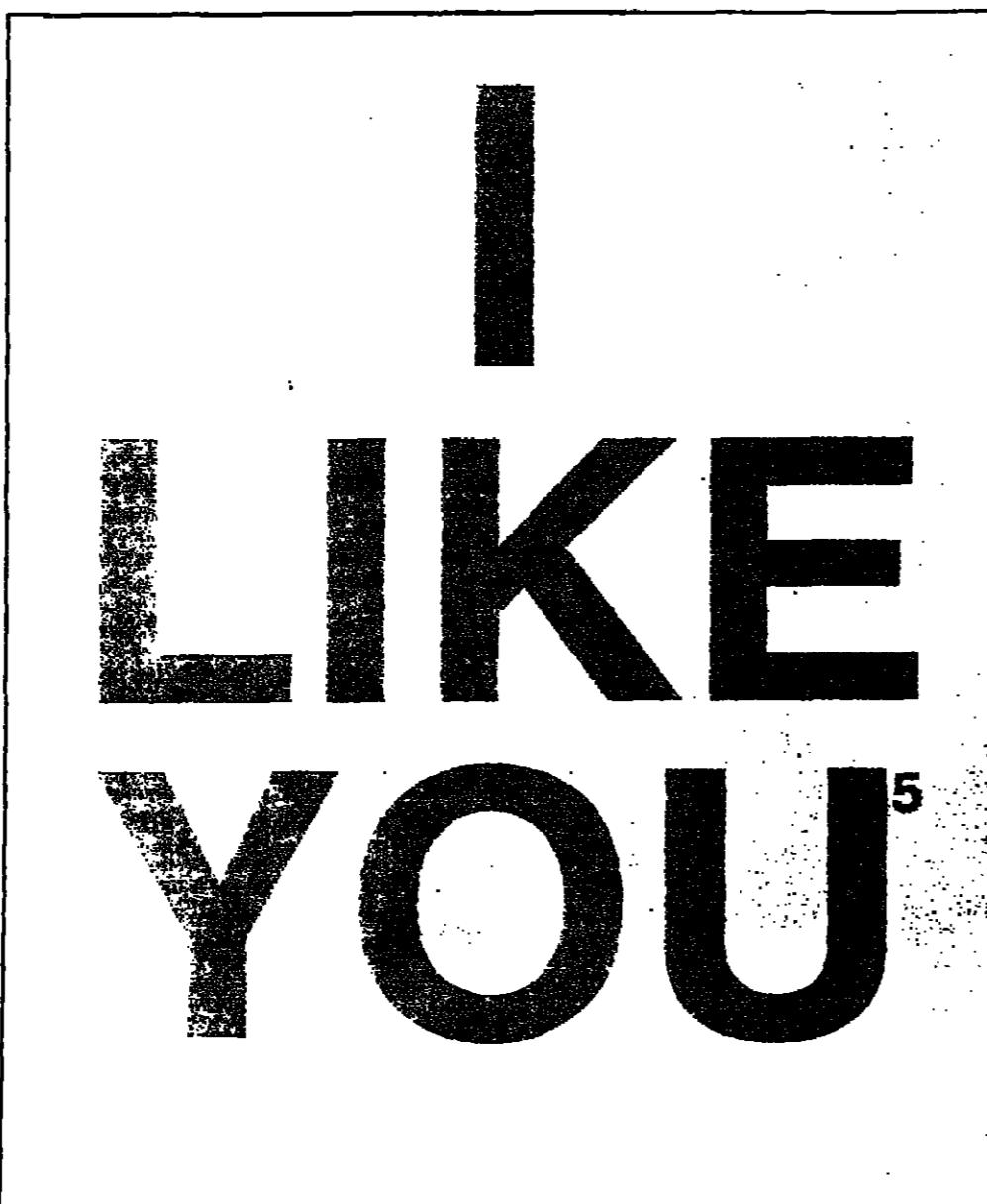
Signs is bankrolled by CAT, whose favourite slogan, "We Shape The Things We Build, Thereafter They Shape Us", appears on its new website.

"In a society/marketplace based on meaningless things," reads the exhibition's sell, "people long for something interesting or attractive, so Signs is a project resulting from a culture where image is visual wallpaper. The Signs project takes apart mass-produced culture and reassembles it as pop culture."

The exhibition uses photography, film, video, music, new media and design as "a means to create a statement that represents a contemporary anthropology of urban culture", according to the organisers. The main theme linking all the contributors to the show is that of the automation of our cities, using semiotics in an attempt to capture the reality of urban life.

Emerging from the tunnel, ease yourself into the exhibition with the *Bless the Artist* display: an anti-technology, deliberately retro exhibit which comprises four TV-sized screens and is perfect for anyone who's a Luddite at heart. Toy cars trundle along the comforting, play-school landscapes made up of simple block images and solid primary colours, alongside messages which read: "You are in the deep end", "When red light shows wait here", and "Turn up the volume".

"They're like little illuminated signs," explains the brain behind *Bless the Artist*, Anthony Burri,



Clockwise from left: 'Crash1', 'Bless the Artist1' and 'Fly1'. Signs takes mass-produced culture and reassembles it as pop culture

who was also responsible for the Tango-sponsored Christmas lights in London's Regent Street at the end of last year.

"The simple look is taken from CeeLo and from cashpoint display machines, which have very low resolution. It is about using things that people are familiar with, and so becomes more user-friendly and less scary."

Signs is housed, appropriately, in a huge, industrial, urban warehouse space. Alongside the central corridor which channels all visitors into the exhibition, sit four large, silver pods, described as "listening booths". Dip in and out of these,

throw yourself on to the desirable, designer beanbag and experience the rantings of culture terrorists CRASH, whose most famous slogans are "Death to Chris Evans" and "David Badell is the Rent Boy of the Bourgeoisie", and who here claim "juvenile delinquents are the British avant-garde".

Short films on offer include work by the Visualisationists, centred on the pop group Addict, and 16 mini-films (ranging from 30 seconds to five minutes) from graphic design company Fuel, throwing together juxtaposed ideas, from Patrick Moore explaining the Heisenberg theory of change to

Kate Moss discussing ownership and the image.

In the adjacent pod, designed by Antrom, an agency and art collective which specialises in multi-media, websites and CD-Roms, visitors can get interactive with a small, square box projected on to a video screen. With the help of a computer mouse, the square can be provoked into a frantic display of furious activity. Nick Roop, a member of Antrom, explains: "As you interact with this thing that looks like a harmless little box, you realise it has a personality. It gets happier, or more pissed off, according to what happens. It is sim-

ple, but it is also a little bit dark."

Contemporary photography is also well represented, from Dan Holdsworth's eerily beautiful urban landscapes of empty car-parks and deserted freeways, to the arresting Chopped Liver project, which freezes gym fanatics mid-workout, exposing their vulnerabilities and decrying the absurdity of gym culture. Accompanying text in this month's issue of the magazine *slazeration* reveals the contempt felt by photographers Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin for their subjects: "Is it those selfsame tossers who drive their Beemers the five-minute walk to the station

every day who spend at least an hour a day working out? More than likely."

Signs has gathered together an impressive collection of those at the leading edge of artistic and commercial creativity. And while direct plugs for CAT are kept to a minimum, this is still clearly a case of credibility by association: what do you do if you want to appear street?

Gather together the young, treddy innovators of today and hang out with them.

Signs, at the Atlantis Gallery, 146 Brick Lane, London E1 (0171-837 4852), until 21 Feb



Peerless progress

THEATRE

PEER GYNT
THE ROYAL EXCHANGE
MANCHESTER

AMID HIS extraordinary peregrinations, Ibsen's Peer Gynt fetches up among the Circle of Seventy Interpreters. It's been recently increased, says his host, sweeping an arm round the auditorium, to 650. And so we are all, before this amazing and disconcerting play, interpreters. Or rather part-interpreters, for it is exhilaratingly complex: philosophical, comic, tragic, satiric, and fantastic.

Sometimes director Graham Murray takes us sportively by the hand as in the scene where the "lunatics", freed following the passing away of Reason, emerge as Marx, Freud, Einstein and Chris Evans. Best of all, Felaah, a comic type representing Ibsen's perpetual obsession with the burden of the past, turns out to be Tony Blair (mimicked superbly by Joseph Murray), whose particular load is a papoose holding the mummified figure of Mrs Thatcher.

But the progress of Peer Gynt, madcap as it is, is not a game, nor does this production turn it into one. The incorrigible boy-fantast who we meet telling his mother of riding a stag over glaciers, and who elopes with another's bride at her wedding, visits the troll-kingdom, travels the world making and losing fortunes only to return home shipwrecked after 50 years, is a picturesque hero who, for all his journeys through the material and unconscious worlds, can never discover his own self. Famously, he sees himself in the onion he peels: all layers and nothing at the centre.

If there is an English actor protean enough to seize the metamorphoses of Peer Gynt, it is David Threlfall. The shaven-headed kid tugging impatiently at his mother's attention as he tells his tale becomes the pursued but potent youth exulting that "This Is Life!". In middle-age, he is the suave, pony-tailed millionaire, Turkish pasha, fake maharishi and interrogator of the Sphinx. He returns home as shorn and restless a survivor as the Ancient Mariner.

Threlfall sheds and dons these skins with bewildering, though increasingly agonised, facility. But following him as a physical being rather than an abstraction, we can see the helix of continuity. Threlfall has the capacity to reduce his countenance to fearful essentials: a mask simply punctuated by eye sockets and a blow-hole mouth.

Through the play's swells, it colours, fills and animates, but from boy to old age this imprint, an uncomfortable "kind of old scarecrow", remains and returns. No wonder Peer would rather keep his identity in Hell than be reduced in the Button-Moulder's lair, and the connection of physical being and identity may also run across the conclusion that his true self inheres in Solveig's constant love. But that will happen when ideas are made flesh, especially in performance as distinctive and magnificent as this.

And so much more: Joseette Bushell-Mingo, erect and serene as Solveig, contrastingly sensual elsewhere; the decisive strokes of Simon Higlett's design, especially the serial ballet of white birds; and Akintayo Akinobode's music Go join the interpreters - and enjoy.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

Until 13 March: 0161-833 9833

Wanted for brilliance, dead or alive

SIMON CALLOW in a new book about his passionate Platonic love affair with the agent and *monstre sacré*, Peggy Ramsay, reveals that the couple spent a lot of time gassing to each other on the phone during his periods offstage in his dressing room when he was in rep at the National. If he'd ever appeared in a production by Declan Donnellan these telephone outpourings would have been drastically reduced. Even when they have been gorily bumped off, Donnellan loves to keep characters on stage, moving around in revealing relation to their survivors. He's a master at creating, through his casts, a constantly shifting dia-

THEATRE

LE CID
RIVERSIDE
LONDON

gram of the psychological forces operating at any one point.

This talent strikes with particular vividness now in his magnificently lucid and passionate modern-dress staging, with French-speaking actors, of Corneille's 1636 masterpiece *Le Cid*. Played on a bare wooden floor and against planked walls where the silhouettes literally heighten one's sense of the dramatic conflicts, this is the first staging I

have seen of this tricky play where I haven't felt tempted to snort with derision at the intricate rigiddities of the Spanish honour code.

The potential tragedy is triggered by an insulting slap across the face administered by a military hero (the alarmingly virile Michel Baumann) to a more successful rival for the King's favours.

It's characteristic that the shock of that smack is intensified here by having it coincide with a sudden outbreak of polite applause for a guitar concert just ending at Court. It's also typical that the resulting duel is staged with the two stripped-to-the-waist combatants arming sword thrusts at each other, long-dis-

tance, from diagonally opposite extremes of the set. Space and time are collapsed: so characters who, in other locations, are agonising about the moral and amatory consequences of such a fight, seem to be physically encircled by it.

This kind of psychic geometry brilliantly clarifies the appalling strain on William Nциальн's useful, sensitive Don Rodrigue, pushed into reluctant heroism by his helpless crippled father (Philippe Blancher) and landed in the cruelly invidious position of being the murderer of his fiancée's father. The production brings out the more than faintly sub-currents of the honour code in the stage world

mourning outfit, constantly keeping up the pressure on her to put his memory before all else. Likewise, an obsessed Infanta (Sandrine Attard) can strip the man of her dreams in fantasy and slip herself into his military tunic.

The embarrassment of the happy ending is transcended by showing (a) that it is also embarrassing to the characters and (b) that it isn't all that happy. One of the French reviews was headlined "Wonderful!" Let's go for the bilingual approach and just say "Formidable!"

PAUL TAYLOR

To 26 Feb: 0181 741 2255



Le Cid: startlingly vivid

Donnellan creates a dead father can continue to spy on his unwitting half-naked daughter (Sarah Karbasnikoff) and zip her into her

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It's a man's world

THEATRE

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN
APOLLO THEATRE
LONDON

WELCOME TO THE twilight world of the heterosexual Rob Becker's record-breaking Broadway comedy, *Defending the Caveman*, arrives with an affidavit from John Gray, author of the best-selling *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*, so that you instantly know where you are: It's a cross between a self-help guide to the sex war and an amusing stand-up routine.

The best thing about it is the casting. Your tour guide is Mark Little, best known in this country as Joe Mangel of *Neighbours* fame. Little has temporarily cast aside his acting career to become a well-loved comedian and a buoyant host on *The Big Breakfast*. He has a hugely appealing, unusually benign, anarchic quality. The show may be predicated on the idea of straight men's behaviour stemming from the prehistoric blueprint of the caveman, but as the rather large Little shambles energetically about the stage, he seems less Fred Flintstone than Yogi Bear. He's great on puzzlement and bewilderment, his whole

misunderstanding, we're told, we must move on, and cherish those differences.

In Little's hands, much of this is very funny, but the longer it goes on, the more you begin to believe that the writer came up with the equation first, then dragged in examples to fit it. Even Little's engaging Australian filter on the proceedings cannot disguise the utterly American tone. Not on the heels of some smartly comic stuff about the gender differences on sex, the final section shifts into proselytising mode with more than a whiff of "the inner child".

Becker argues that gender divides us into different cultures, languages and customs. Far from spurning women, prehistoric man worshipped them for their magic. Men have a narrower focus: they want to trap and kill while women go out gathering. Yes, we're back with the old hunter-gatherer dichotomy explaining everything about divergences between the sexes. After centuries of mutual

DAVID BENEDICT

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE HAVE MOVED

From tomorrow, Design will appear in Saturday's paper. And from next week, Architecture will be in the Monday Review

KATE WINSLET SAID TAGHMAOUI
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As Good as a Holiday
A Small Marvel
Whislet is Whining
Colourful and Evocative, Winslet Shines
NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Peer
prog

MUSIC

Woolly? Not any more

The Cardigans have come a long way from the fey Indie pop of their first albums and the transatlantic hit 'Lovefool'. Watch out world, it's time for electro-road rock. By Andrew Mueller

On the standard journalistic litmus test for determining the degree to which a pop group have impressed themselves on the consciousness of a foreign nation, The Cardigans score 50 per cent. The passport officer at Boston's Logan Airport has heard of them; the taxi driver hasn't. The passport officer, indeed, is familiar enough with their work to be able intelligently to discuss their progression from the barbed bubblegum of 1997's fresh-faced transatlantic hit "Lovefool" to the coquettish clatter of the current American single, "My Favourite Game".

The taxi driver, for his part, loses the plot as soon as The Cardigans' homeland of Sweden is introduced into the conversation: he doesn't appear to have heard of it. The Cardigans clearly still have some work to do.

"Not really," shrugs Nina Persson. "I don't think we'll get much bigger over here than we already are. This is our third tour and we've played the same venues every time. But getting bigger is not really our goal. We know that what happened with 'Lovefool' was an exception."

Persson, The Cardigans' singer, is possibly the most Swedish-looking person in the world. She sits at the end of a table in the band's Boston hotel and chain-smokes cheerfully while the other Cardigans contemplate their brunches. Peter Svensson, the guitarist, whose blond roots show through the black dye in his hair, occasionally adds observations. Bengt Lagerberg, the drummer, and Lasse Johansson, the guitarist/keyboardist, say nothing. The bass-player Magnus Svenningsson isn't even here, having cried off this leg of The Cardigans' world tour pleading exhaustion.

Svenningsson has been replaced, temporarily, by Lars Ljungberg, an acquaintance of The Cardigans from Malmö, and a man whose unlikely Swedish/Italian/Egyptian parentage has blessed him with a resemblance to the late Phil Lynott, which is appropriate to the startlingly leather-trousered and rocking Cardigans of 1999. The Cardigans have changed a great deal since they emerged from Malmö in 1994 as a group of prim teenagers harbouring a perhaps unhelpful fascination with the fey edges of the British Indie spectrum – so resolutely Anglophile were they that their debut album was entitled *Emmerdale*.



The Cardigans: so resolutely Anglophile that their debut album was entitled 'Emmerdale'

to Depeche Mode – the songs relentlessly mournful, and Persson's vocals pristine and much more played-up than previously. The Cardigans appear to have realised, at last, what a fine thing their singer's voice is, as capable of glacial impersonness as it is of luxuriant melancholy.

"We knew that we wanted to record with electronic equipment," confirms Persson. "That automatically brings a certain feel to it. We wanted to be a little more serious and suggestive than before. We were thrilled and surprised by what happened when we started to record."

Gran Turismo – it isn't named after the PlayStation game – was recorded at the conclusion of an eight-month break the band took from writing and playing after a year of touring on the back of "Lovefool". This bleak little ballad, with its irresistible chorus ("Love me, love me! Say that you love me"), became a worldwide hit after being included in the sound-track of Baz Luhrmann's film of *Romeo+Juliet*. The mayhem that ensued seems still to confuse the band, not least because "Lovefool", when you listened to the verses ("I don't care if you really care/As long as you don't go") was as far from a Valentine's card greeting as could be imagined. The Cardigans have previously astutely compared it, in tone, to Dusty Springfield's epicly self-abusing "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me".

"We took the break," says Svensson, "because we just lost sight of what it was all about, and the whole 'Lovefool' thing was a big part of that. I still really like that song, I think it's amazing. I'm really happy about it. But suddenly it's become the most difficult song for me to play, for some reason. Last night, in Providence, I realised that every single time we perform it and I do the back-up vocals on the chorus, I can't remember the words. And they're the most simple words ever written. But I forgot them. Every single night."

The final element of The Cardigans' conversion from winsome Indie janglers to electro-rock road warriors came with the release of "My Favourite Game", the first single from *Gran Turismo*. The accompanying video was directed by Jonas Akerlund, the film-maker responsible for the globally popular video for The Primitives' "Smack My Bitch Up". The video depicts Nina placing a hefty rock on the accelerator of a convertible and careering down a desert highway, wreaking no end of entertaining havoc. Four endings to the video were shot: one of them shows a catastrophic pile-up involving a caravan, after which Nina's severely severed head – or at least a model thereof – bounces and rolls towards the sunset. The video has been banned by just about everybody, lest impressionable young Cardigans fans suddenly decide that it would be cool to decapitate themselves in car accidents.

"It was fun," giggles Persson. "Did

you notice the way the tattoo keeps coming off on the car seat?"

"My Favourite Game", it transpires, was not originally written as the arrestingly punky pop song that appears on *Gran Turismo*. It was conceived, says Svensson, as a boogie-woogie torch song, an echo of Nina Simone's "My Baby Just Cares for Me", but Bengt couldn't get the drum part right, so it's all his fault". Later that day, the two will perform this version of the song live at the studios of Boston's WCBN, and it will sound haunting and fantastic.

"It's good to be doing this again," decides Persson. "Now we know this is our choice, and it can be a drag and it can be really exhausting sometimes, but it is our job. I'm starting to understand that thing they say, that after a certain amount of years on the road it's impossible to do anything else."

"Erase/Rewind" is out on Monday; *Gran Turismo* is available now. Both are on Polydor

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Figures released by Co-op Funeral Services this week suggest that most people now request modern songs for their funerals. Currently top of The Co-op Funeral Pops are "My Heart Will Go On" sung by Celine Dion (below) and Elton John's "Candle in The Wind"



The Co-Op Funeral Charts

The crematorium chapel rings
To pounding drums and jangling strings
No better back door to the arts
Than crash the Co-op funeral charts
Some cashback and another point
Upon my card, let's rock this joint
But prior to laying me on my bier
Let's sort the speakers out in here.

A Co-op Funeral has allure
Being horney, socialist and pure
And boasts experience stretching back
Which larger retail giants may lack
If Waitrose funerals came to pass
You'd have to suffer Philip Glass
If Tesco bore you to your grave
I doubt they'd let you play Nick Cave

But here among the payment stamps
The kitchenware and bedside lamps
As well as selling Weetabix
The Co-op takes you down the Styx
And contributions over years
Will ease you from this vale of tears
Which even if the thought seems hard
Still racks up on your divi card

And hoary fellows like myself
When sliding off the mortal shelf
Would want a favourite song no doubt
Like "Uncle Harry's Last Freakout"
Or all of Never Neverland
(Pink Fairies fans will understand)
And what a thrill as hearse departs
To know it's made the Co-op Charts

So when I die, don't cry for me
Just dig out that old Damned LP
Find "Smash It Up" Parts 1 and 2
And play it to the mourning crew
Should gentler souls begin to tut
Chill out a bit with "In A Rut"
Then pour the beer in large amounts
And toast the only chart that counts

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

THE INDEPENDENT'S GUIDE TO POP'S FIDDLY BITS
NO 3: 'THE GREAT PRETENDER'



Stan Freberg: music and humour were inescapably intertwined

COMPLETE SILENCES are rare in records aimed at radio air-play – DJs dread the spectre of dead air time – but dramatic pauses are to be treasured. And there's a priceless gap about two-and-a-half minutes into Stan Freberg's "The Great Pretender". This is a comedy record in which a melodramatic pop vocalist battles with an unco-operative hipster pianist on a session. "I got the same chord over and over," complains the latter, "my hand is falling off!" Though obliged to play a bland, repetitive piano vamp – the kind that accompanied scores of fifties hits – the sideman attempts to sneak in his favourite cool jazz licks. At one point he gets away with the opening six-note phrase from George Shearing's "Lullaby of Birdland". The exasperation of the vocal artiste mounts until he threatens the disruptive musician with non-payment. "You play that cling-cling-cling jazz or you won't get paid tonight," he yelps. The entire studio (and record) goes silent.

The endless break that follows (only a second or two, in fact) marks a kind of epiphany for the musician. Before the record is out, he has embraced both the

demands of the market-place and a new aesthetic, attacking the repetitive, minimalist triplet part with a manic intensity that would be equalled only several years later, by Steve Reich's "Oh Dem Watermelons". "Don't stop me now man," cries the piano man, "I've got to where I like it."

"The Great Pretender" may not be as musically expert (or even a funny) as Freberg's "The Banana Boat Song" or as good a pastiche as his "Heartbreak Hotel", in which an Elvis-soundalike becomes entangled in repeat echo. But this track, and in particular that exquisite pause, may have unwittingly captured a pivotal (almost tragic) moment in musical and cultural history: only a few twists and turns of the globe before the rock'n'roller mutates into all-round family entertainer and the jazzier shaves of his goatee to join Warhol's Factory – or at the very least becomes Philip Glass. Listen and weep.

Does humour belong in music? Frank Zappa asked the question much later without coming to a conclusion that anyone could take seriously. As far as Freberg is concerned, they're inseparable.

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Out on his Todd again

Todd Rundgren is a pioneer. His eclectic albums were the benchmark for a decade, his innovative studio techniques one step ahead of the music industry. So now he's bypassing it altogether. By Robert Webb

Go ahead, ignore me!" ran the tag line on ads for Todd Rundgren records in the Seventies. The music business doesn't often try reverse psychology to get a sale, but Todd does things differently. Songwriter, video pioneer, producer, recording artist, computer software developer, interactive artist, company director: in many ways, it's been difficult to ignore this multimedia wizard. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Rundgren is best known for a string of albums on the Bearsville label made between 1970 and 1982, now getting the digitally remastered treatment. And they're wonderful. Beach Boy harmonies collide with soulful ballads and fifties revival: progressive knob-twiddling fuses with bubblegum simplicity. Even Gilbert & Sullivan find their way in. These records bump and grind together like the plate tectonics of Seventies pop. To find out more, I catch up with Rundgren during rehearsals for a US tour with Ringo Starr.

"C'mon Todd, Gilbert & Sullivan: what was all that about?" I played that stuff because my dad hated it and when I was young he wouldn't allow it in the house," he chuckles. "Anyways if you were a Beatles fan you had to think eclectically." Sure enough, the first album, *Runt*, became a paradigm for the musically disparate decade to come. Name-checked by Patti Smith as "a sort of rock'n'roll Ravel", great things were expected.

By 1972, though, and unhappy with the marketing commitments expected of him and the infidelities of an avaricious music industry, he began to close ranks. Holing himself up in the studio, on his todd, as it were, he wrote, played, arranged and produced *The Ballad of Todd Rundgren* and the brilliant *Something/Anything*, hailed by *Rolling Stone* magazine as the "best album Paul McCartney never made". An array of guitars, keyboards, drums, fiddles and bells were plucked, struck and double-tracked by the versatile Rundgren. "I learned the guitar when I was six and pretty quickly

could pick out the songs by ear faster than the teacher could show me them. Every time there was an instrument around, I learned to play something on it."

An innovative engineer he was also one of the first to realise the potential of the studio itself as an instrument. This was fine-tuned on the pop-glam sprawl *A Wizard, A True Star*, and its follow-up, *Todd*.

Both records now sound modern and sparkle in their remastered form, but was different in the mid-Seventies. Rundgren remembers *A Wizard* as an effort to "take the stream of consciousness that was going through my head at the time and imprint it to the medium". It's no secret that psychedelic drugs also played a part. "I realised you could look at the surface of a record as an unbroken canvas and paint anything you wanted on it," he explains. "So I gave up the idea of songs that had beginnings and endings and looked at sound and music as one continuous mishmash of stuff."

For many, Rundgren had hit the



Todd Rundgren: always more interested in making great music than in turning out marketable records

self-destruct button. But then he has always been more interested in making music than marketable records. This is evident from his website tr-i.com (that's Todd Rundgren Interactive), where new TR material can be downloaded on a pay-to-hear basis. By cutting out several middlemen, Rundgren has all but disengaged himself from the industry and recording costs are mostly underwritten by his online subscribers. "I'm always making music," he enthuses, as well as completing his

autobiography for publication next year. But a principal interest remains the opportunities in interactive technology. "Within 10 years, a significant portion of the audience is going to cease buying CDs," he declares. "It takes too long and costs too much. But the industry is in a revolutionary spin and terrified of methods that threaten to undercut their profit."

Are devices like the MP3 which enable listeners to download music from the Net going to change the face of music consumption? "Sure, but

that isn't what's causing the crisis.

The industry consistently took the market for granted. Now audience demands are changing, but record companies are clueless." If Todd is right, we can look forward to many more artists, as he puts it, "electronically recontextualising" their output on the Internet - as well as, one presumes, mass unemployment in the record industry.

"Music is destined to become a service. The listening experience is what matters." For those of us

stuck with old-fashioned listening experiences, the Bearsville reissues and an excellent *Best Of Go Ahead, Ignore Me*, are a reminder that the Seventies were more than Gary Glitter and your dad's Gilbert & Sullivan records.

Runt, *The Ballad of Todd Rundgren*, *Something/Anything*, *A Wizard, A True Star* and *Todd* are re-released on *Castle on Monday*. Rundgren's website is at: www.tr-i.com/

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



JIMI TENOR
Organism

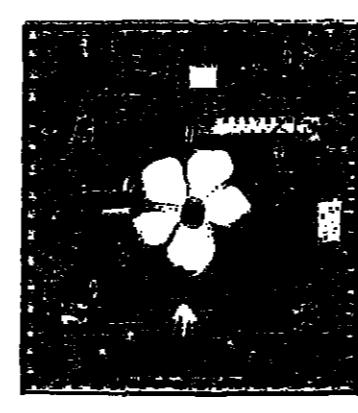
TECHNO IS truly the international language of pop as we race towards the millennium: after the French wave of Daft Punk, Air and Bob Sinclar, here's the Finnish method (way of Barcelonais), courtesy of cool blond über-nerd Jimi Tenor. Quirky and quixotic, it's bags of fun, and aptly titled, too, Tenor blending his beats and samples to produce a warm, organic sound that's light years away from the more glacial tones of techno purists like his fellow countrymen Pan Sonic.

Tenor heralded his approach on this second album with the infectious single "Year of the Apocalypse", a slinky soul mambo anthem stating his firm determination to party on in the face of millennial doom. It's a dirty job, but with tracks as powerful as "Total Devastation", Jimi's the man to get it done. A monster funk groove barrelling along with the force of a runaway train, it boasts the most propulsive bass part since Parliament put the motherhip into mothballs.

Elsewhere, Jimi's methods are more subtle, with a distinct jazz influence in many cases: "Beach Boy" is a delightful slice of early Sun Ra-style ship-of-the-

desert soul-jazz, enigmatic but entertaining, while the twists of melody taken by the crepuscular "Sleep" would seem to owe as much to Charles Mingus as to anyone. Tenor's forte, however, is the kind of remoulded Sixties-style film music he devises for "Kinotepe Heat", where razzle sax and cool flute alternate solos over an understated, sinky funk groove embellished with occasional electric harpsichord glissandi: evocative, oddly timeless, it's like the theme to a surreal American cop show that somehow finds itself beached on the brink of the next century.

However, there's a pronounced element of camp in some of Tenor's music that can get annoying. It's not so much the fault of his arch, treated vocals on tracks such as "Muchmo" and "Serious Love" as the way his horns and strings sometimes overwhelm with their heavy irony. In the face of the latter song's absurdly melodramatic orchestral stabs and chord changes, Jimi's murmured desire for some "serious loving" takes on a decidedly sinister aspect. Though that's what you might expect from a man who claims "I want to be a palm-reader/So I can lie about your fate".



STEVE EARLE AND THE DEL McCOURY BAND
The Mountain

THE LATE Nineties have been something of a golden period for Steve Earle: this is his fourth album in as many years, and they've all been decent efforts.

The Mountain is no exception, offering a stream of agreeable surprises at the way Earle's weather-beaten, rock-infected country dovetails so neatly into the frisky playing of the McCoury brothers' award-winning bluegrass outfit. They're in perfect equilibrium on "Yours Forever Blue", a womanizer's *mea culpa*, in which Earle's weary drawl leans comfortably against mandolin and fiddle, while there's a manic grace to the more uptempo numbers such as "Leroy's Dustbowl Blues", which dashes along regardless of its sombre subject matter.

The album's centre-piece comprises a pair of mining songs, "Haran Man" and "The Mountain". It's not an optimistic picture: where the Haran Man hopes to be a miner as long as his luck and his lungs hold out, the old-timer in "The Mountain" provides a more sober overview:

"There's a chill in the air only miners can feel/ There's ghosts in the tunnels that the company sealed."



TLC
Fanmail

THEIR SOMETHING eerily appropriate about the way that Tionne, Lisa and Chilli's blue, disembodied heads float across *Fanmail*'s 3D cover, like virtual cybersex sirens just waiting for your call. It matches perfectly the virtual nature of their voices, so smothered in reverberation that they seem to float like holograms. This lends them a weightless grace which, for all their sauciness, still manages to make the mannequin antics of their peers seem crude and mechanical by comparison.

All three girls contribute songs, the best being Tionne's "Unpretty", a complaint about someone who makes her feel "so damned unpretty" - which is hard to imagine. It's certainly harder to warrant than Lisa's self-determination anthem, "My Life", which is a proclamation of her right to notoriety (and this is hardly in doubt, following her alleged torching of the US footballer Andre Pison's \$2m mansion).

Otherwise, it's business as usual: they still push nearer the sexual knuckle than other girl groups, with brazen tracks like "Don't Pull Out On Me Yet", though the charmless Babyface ballad "I Miss You So Much" surely over-compensates for their saltier attitude elsewhere.



SEBADOH
The Sebadoh

THE DEFINITE article in the title is well-earned: this seventh album is clearly Sebadoh's most solid effort, boasting a coherency which previous releases lacked.

In particular, the disparity between Lou Barlow's morose ruminations and Jason Loewenstein's more energetic, thrashier numbers is much less pronounced than before. For the first time, they sound something like a real band, rather than singers taking turns. Barlow's resolute gloominess can still grow tiresome, but overall there's a conviction and unity to the album which is long overdue.

The ringing guitars and haunting harmonies of the single "Weird in the Way" place the group firmly back in the American guitar-rock mainstream that flows from The Byrds to REM and beyond, though elsewhere they remain committed to exploring less obvious musical currents. In "Bird in the Hand", the result sounds like grunge played with the wrong chords, preferable to grunge played with the right chords but of questionable utility; even so, still there's enough progress on *The Sebadoh* to compensate and, as they explain in "It's All You", "This is good. It's all we have."



ANJA GARBAREK
Balloon Mood

THE DAUGHTER of the Norwegian jazz sax stylist Jan, Anja Garbarek has already made waves in Scandinavia with this debut album, which was released there in 1996.

It's easy to see why, just as Jan has tried to push accepted musical boundaries through collaborations, with such as the Hilliard Ensemble, so Anja draws on a wide range of styles and sources for her eclectic sound.

The co-producer Marius DeVries has obviously been influential in developing some of these grooves, which partake of techno synth lines, slowed down guitars and Burundi percussion, radio tuning loops, yawning double-bass, found noises and sawing strings.

The results find Garbarek occupying a position close to Bjork and Sinead O'Connor, on the cusp of modern pop and more experimental modes of sound organisation.

Sung in a cutely variant of Nordenstam's chilly-infant style, Garbarek's songs are mostly about alienation and the superiority of an imaginative inner life over mundane reality - a position that is reflected in the balance between airy vocal and more leaden groove on "Picking up Pieces". Earthbound, but aspirant.

The beat comes from the heart

US rapper Everlast is a man reborn. He's a little wiser, a little mellower. And he's ready to sing the blues. By James McNair

KEITH RICHARDS once explained that he wore a ghoul skull-ring on his finger to remind him to enjoy life while it lasted. Erik Schrody, aka Everlast, has a *momento mori* that's rather more personal. Last February, this multi-platinum selling rapper had a near-fatal heart attack while recording the album *Whitley Ford Sings the Blues*. The subsequent operation left him with a huge scar which bisects his chest. "Sometimes I'll get out of the shower, and when I look in the mirror it takes me by surprise again", he says. "It reminds me to be grateful that God gave men the technology to save my life."

Schrody's heart-attack was that wake-up call that nobody books: the one that turns your life upside-down and forces you to reassess everything. It was, however, a process he'd already started. In 1996 he split up his former band House of Pain (anyone remember "Jump Around"?); at their commercial peak, Schrody had quit drinking, and this distanced him from his bandmates Danny O'Connor and Leon Dimpay. He also knew that House of Pain had become a cleverly-marketed product based on braggadocio and a hard-living image.

Those who know him say that he's mellowed. The night before we met, he and his band had supported Hole at the Patriot Centre in Washington. A load of their equipment had gone

make money, I had to quit," he says. As its platinum status in the US confirms, there's far more to *Whitley Ford Sings the Blues* than the story behind it. A beguiling blend of samples, blue-collar politics, acoustic guitars, and the occasional Erik Satie-esque piano, it's a mature, often affecting record which goes some way towards defining the future of song-based hip hop. Think Neil Young with De La Soul producing.

In his Washington hotel room, Schrody conducts our interview with the television on and the sound turned down. He tells me that the album is about "shedding fears"; fear of loneliness, fear of God, even the simple fear of how the record itself might be perceived. "This is the most emotional album I've made, and I'm supposed to be the House of Pain tough guy, you know?" he smiles.

"It's raw and it's honest though, and even people with an agenda are finding it hard to dismiss that."

In the silences between his answers I can hear a soft, metronomic ticking. Thanks to a plastic heart-valve, Everlast has become a human beat-box.

Despite the *Whitley Ford* album's success in the States, Everlast is bracing himself for a rather more testing round of promotions over here.



Everlast: not just some white guy from America

The record's sleeve has a shot of Schrody stripped to the waist, and to the left of his operation scars the words "Sein Fein" are tattooed on his chest.

He sighs deeply when I question him about it, and concedes that there's talk of air-brushing the tattoo from the British CD sleeve. "But then it'll just become a different question, and I'll have to answer for that, too," he says.

He goes on to explain that he's third-generation Irish on his mother's side, and that although he's not pretending to be "bama-fide County Cork", his Irish roots give him a sense

of being someone other than "some white guy from America".

He repeatedly states that he doesn't condone violence of any kind, and stresses that when he got the tattoo, he was naive about its political implications.

"For me, it was just the literal meaning: that thing of you come in alone, die alone", he says. "If people can't understand that, that's fine. Just don't kill me over it."

Whitley Ford Sings the Blues is released by Tommy Boy records on 1 March

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LATEST RECORDS BOUGHT BY PLACEBO'S BRIAN MOLK

Michael Jackson *Thriller*
I got *Thriller* from John Menzies for £3.69! The song I best remember is "Beat It". The gang fight in the video was exactly the image I had in mind from the song. But the part I remember most is Vincent Price. I was a real horror movie fan and I remember his deep, gravel voice saying "The funk of 40,000 years...". In retrospect, I prefer *Off the Wall*, which is much better for dancing.

Add N to X *Third Eye Foundation*
I heard of this electronic band because they are popular with the weekly music papers. They are avant-garde electronic pioneers. It's far more extreme than much of punk music, which is why they interest me. The album's sleeve is fantastic. It shows a body on an operating table with wires coming out of its insides like an electric keyboard. It's hard to describe what they sound like - the sound of space in 1999, a rave in a sewer - something bizarre. You become quite involved in the music, and although it's a difficult album to listen to, they challenge themselves sonically.

Placebo's new single, 'Every You Every Me', is out now (Hut!)

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I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

CARTOON WERE nice boys with nice songs. They smiled while they sang, and they sang about things which made them glad. At the top of their list were summer holidays, sunshine and girls. Appropriately enough, two members of the band met while working in a Mozzarella factory in Wales. It would be invidious to

knock Cartoon for being happy all the time - they are, after all, a "cartoon" band - but you couldn't help thinking they would have continued smiling if the roof had caved in and reduced their (smiling) fans to a mangled mush. Cartoon's guitar-based bubblegum pop is meant to warm hearts, but left me cold.

There was youthful enthusiasm from Glasgow four-piece Astrid - not to be confused with the Scottish singer of the same name. Their songs have lyrics that overflow with adolescent whimsy. "I'm a boy, you're a girl! Even when you rock my world", went their penultimate track, the subtext being: I can't stop

CARTOON
THE GARAGE, LONDON
ASTRID
THE GARAGE, LONDON
SPACE RAIDERS
DINGWALLS, LONDON

thinking about sex even though you're quite a laugh too. Sweet and to the point. Astrid's fluffy blonde tresses echoed the salubrious American siblings, Hanson, as did their on-stage antics. They bobbed up and down, earnestly nodded their heads and screwed up their faces when reaching for the high notes. These are exactly the kind of winsome ditties that Hanson

will be doing when they finally grow up. Even Hanson would draw the line at the kindergarten antics of Spaceraiders. Taking a leaf out of their Skint-labelmates Bentley Rhythm Ace's book, they had donned comedy outfits for the occasion and brandished plastic rayguns and similar *Roundtripper* toys from behind the decks.

After the runaway success of Fatboy Slim aka Norman Cook, it seems that a stamp of approval from the Skint label is all an aspiring dance band needs to pack a venue to the rafters. As a result, Spaceraiders had a lot to live up to. Following in the Big Beat tradition, they had the requisite visual elements - Sixties B movie

inspired film loops as well as graphic artwork that seemed to have been shamelessly lifted from the Beastie Boys. But despite their wacky appearance, their music was pleasantly normal. They stuck to the Skint formula of mixing mellow lounge grooves with house rhythms, but they remained mercifully detached from the crashing drum rolls and endless sampling of their colleagues.

The fluidity of their sound was marred by the presence of a seemingly redundant man with a megaphone and drumsticks, but in spite of his persistent air drumming, Spaceraiders came up with an energizing, if not altogether inventive, show.

FIONA STURGES

Noodling with Kelly McGillis

The fatalistic beauty of Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels* is complemented by its delicate soundtrack by Douglas Finch - proof at last that film music needn't be bland

WHAT MAKES a good sound-track? Transplantability, say the music promoters, pointing to the Titanic concerts that pack their halls. Saleability, say the record companies, pointing to the swelling sound-track sections in the stores. With such rich pickings, it's no wonder that the composers play along, but the artistic price is a deadly sameness. That is why the scores for films such as *Wilde*, *The Woodlanders*, *Wings of the Dove* and *Mrs Brown* - the list could go on *ad infinitum* - are virtually interchangeable.

Next week sees the opening of Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels*, whose sound-track is a wonderful portent, despite running to a mere 18 minutes of music. Why so? Because the score and its film both represent an extraordinary triumph of artistic will. Sanders' angels are five prostitutes in a 19th-century Saskatchewan brothel; Mizoguchi's *Street of Shame*, set in Tokyo brothel in the Fifties, was both its inspiration and its template. Dwelling on faces, voices, and the harshness of the landscape, Sanders presents humanity scraped bare; his film's fatalistic flute music is perfectly echoed in the delicate flute music of its score.

But since it sees men through women's eyes - and in this house of "pleasure" they're a stomach-turning sight - the film has made enemies, including the directors of the London Film Festival and the Canadian-based company which co-financed it. Sanders was ordered to shorten and soften the film, and when he refused, it was recut behind his back and the sound-track was replaced by *Rideau*-style pap. Mercifully, the recut was so execrable that Sanders' film was eventually spared, and after a deliberately sabotaged release - an unadvertised three-day run in an obscure Canadian cinema - *Painted Angels* is now entering the British art-house circuit.

Douglas Finch is head of key-board studies at Trinity College of Music, and a modernist composer

SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

with no previous experience of film. He was hired by Sanders because, as a Canadian, he fitted the project's contractual obligations. Sanders didn't want a score that bolstered the action in the conventional manner; he told Finch to emulate the way Robert Bresson and Andrei Tarkovsky used music in their films - sparingly, appearing in the interstices of the action.

Both the score and its film represent a great triumph of artistic will

"He told me he wanted a lot of different wind noises," says Finch. "So I had a series of flutes specially made, including a Mongolian one with overtones. I went for a sound which wasn't absolutely true, more an extension of the sounds in nature."

Discovering that Finch was a celebrated improviser, Sanders decided to pester the score out of him through a process of suggestion and response which, in the final rushed moments of editing, had to continue over the telephone.

Finch rejected all advice to hire film-music professionals and instead brought in his own ensemble,

with wonderfully fresh results. Moreover, in this film all the music we see played on screen is really being played - not a single note was dubbed in afterwards.

This was somewhat daunting for the actress Kelly McGillis, who had to officiate at the piano for some Victorian home-theatres, since she could neither play music nor read it. Finch solved the problem by providing her with a graphic score bearing instructions such as "big clusters on black notes only" and "start noodling with fingers, gradually getting higher up the keyboard". After six weeks' intensive piano instruction - shades of Emily Watson in *Hilary and Jackie* - McGillis gave an entirely adequate performance.

AT A much more exalted level, an adequate performance is what Sir Claus Moser will be praying for when he plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No 23 at a charity concert at St John's, Smith Square, London on Tuesday.

For Sir Claus - whose public duties include running the British Museum Development Trust - is a musical amateur. In his home town of Berlin he started piano lessons at the age of five with a pupil of Liszt, and when his family had to flee from the Nazis to Britain in the Thirties, Moser was sent to a boarding school where he immediately carved a niche for himself as a pianist.

"When I was 18," he recalls, "my piano teacher, to whom I was devoted, said something which upset me very much: 'Claus, you're a good pianist, but you'll never become one of the top 10 pianists in the world, either technically or by temperament.' That was shrewd of him: he correctly sensed that I didn't have the nerve to be a soloist."

He went on to become one of Britain's top statisticians, and was chairman of the Royal Opera House in its earlier, better days.

Twelve years ago, Moser



Jon Sanders' *Painted Angels*, whose soundtrack represents an extraordinary triumph of artistic will

persuaded the great Hungarian pianist Louis Kentner to give him lessons, his first in four decades. "And at that point I realised that over the years I had been, pianistically speaking, going downhill." Meanwhile, as warden of Wadham, he had begun to play in college concerts,

and four years ago had the satisfaction of playing his first date in St John's in Smith Square. "I felt that, aged 72, I had proved my piano teacher wrong: I was a concert pianist. That was the happiest evening of my life."

Now aged 76, and with a quad-

ruple heart-bypass behind him, Moser has no qualms about being able to play the notes.

"Age is no excuse for a decline in technique, so long as you keep on practising," he says. "The mental challenge - being to concentrate fully for 30 minutes - is much bigger than the physical one. No, I just hope that, as I'm beginning to grow up, my performances may become more truly musical."

Then he quotes Artur Schnabel's famous dictum about Mozart being too easy for children, and too difficult for adults.

GENE

MEANING OF LIFE

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S NEW CD RELEASES

MOST MUSIC-LOVERS know Prokofiev's witty "Classical" Symphony, and almost as many will have heard the heroic Fifth; but his Sixth - and greatest by far - is more of a rarity. Decca prepared one of the symphony's earliest recordings (under the legendary Swiss maestro Ernest Ansermet) and now it has given us its latest - a muscular, elegantly shaped and cogently argued account under Charles Dutoit.

I have to say that this performance surprised me. Not that I doubt the conductor's skills, or indeed the proficiency of Japan's excellent NHK Symphony Orchestra. I had not previously thought of Dutoit as a profound symphonic interpreter; yet he brings uncharacteristic urgency to the opening allegro moderato, jabbing at the downtrodden brass chords that set things in motion and keeping a firm hand on the glowing processionals that sit at the movement's centre. Here, performers and engineers collaborate to impressive effect and the *Romeo and Juliet* selections (eight pieces in all) that precede the symphony include one of the most imposing portrayals of Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets" that I have ever heard.

Another surprise arrives courtesy of Maurizio Pollini, Claudio Abbado, the Berlin Philharmonic and Deutsche Grammophon in a "live" recording of Brahms's First Piano Concerto. Not that the repertoire is surprising, or indeed the marmoreal properties of Pollini's playing. But the coltish spontaneity of the reading, its rhapsodie - albeit controlled - rubato and driving passion all suggest inspiration caught on the wing. It's all too easy to forget that this is young man's music, and Pollini plays it with more

youthfulness than his younger self managed 20-odd years ago under Karl Böhm (also for DG). Abbado's strong-arm conducting undoubtedly helps and the recording is suitably resplendent - though attentive headphone listening reveals one or two conspicuous tape snips. "Live" it may be, but it certainly isn't a single, unedited performance.

Years ago, when 78s were the audio carriers of the day, editing wasn't even an option. You sang or played your heart out, and if something went wrong you simply did it again. Which is why so many people nowadays go back to old records - because they deliver real performances. Among recent vocal releases, I was particularly attracted to a three-CD set of "The Essential Pierre Bernac", transferred from EMI 78s for the Testament label.

Bernac was the pre-eminent French baritone of his generation, and a superb teacher. His voice may not have been the most beautiful of the day, but his use of it, his diction, his sense of poetry and the emotional candour of his interpretations were breathtaking. A previously unissued account of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* song-cycle is only partially successful (Bernac was a little past his prime in 1950), but earlier recordings of songs by Liszt and the masters of French chanson, most notably those by Francis Poulenc (Bernac's friend and regular pianist), will henceforth enrich your musical memory bank. Try Chabrier's *l'ile heureuse* (disc 1, track 4), and I challenge you to resist.

Prokofiev/Dutoit:
Decca 458 190-2
Brahms/Pollini:
DG 447 011-2
The Essential Bernac:
Testament SBT3161
(three discs)

A new CD box-set celebrates 25 years of innovation and exuberance from the Kronos Quartet. By Phil Johnson

We sing the body eclectic

THE YEAR is 1973. The futile, useless war in Vietnam slogs to a close. So begins Alan Rich's chronology of the Kronos Quartet in the booklet that accompanies Nonesuch's handsomely appointed 25th-anniversary boxed set. The tone may seem a little apocalyptic - a little *Apocalypse Now*, even - but it isn't entirely misplaced. In the quarter-century since a 22-year-old violinist from Seattle called David Harrington founded what would go on to become the most popular string quartet in the world, a quiet revolution in classical music has taken place.

The historical context is relevant, too, for Harrington's sense of mission was first inspired by a 1973 radio broadcast of George Crumb's *Black Angels*. "It seemed like a musical response to the Vietnam war," Harrington says in a quote from the booklet. "I didn't even know it was quartet music at first, but it was a magnetic experience. All of a sudden I felt that this was the right music to listen to."

That said, what's in the box? Under-

standably, given the cost of the luxurious packaging, most of the contents have appeared before, although



The Kronos Quartet: has helped to break down resistance to contemporary music

there's a number of new or previously unavailable recordings. These include two Arvo Parta, a Pizzolla, two Terry Riley, three compositions by the fascinating Tasmanian composer Peter Sculthorpe, and two pieces by the relatively unknown Kent Benshoof, who was David Harrington's composition teacher in high school. It was Benshoof who provided the quartet's first commission, with a bag of doughnuts as his fee. The box's more familiar fare includes the minimalist with

the quartet is so strongly associated with pieces by Adams, Feldman, Reich, Glass and Gorecki. Appropriately, the final disc ends with one of Kronos's most praiseworthy works, *White Man Sleeps*, by Kevin Volans.

Regrettably, at least in terms of demonstrating the breadth of the quartet's interests, there's no jazz, and nothing from either their most popular album, *Pieces of Africa*, or the spoken-word pieces on *Howl USA*. For all that, the box is highly impressive,

and there's almost enough music inside to keep listeners busy for the next 25 years. By which time, of course, Schubert and flowered waistcoats may well be the hippest things going.

Kronos Quartet: 25 Years' (None such, 10-CD boxed set)
The quartet plays Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511) 23 Feb; Cambridge Corn Exchange (01223 357851) 24 Feb; and Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524) 26 Feb

ON THE AIR

ANTHONY PAYNE

LEONARD SLATKIN is certainly not the first American conductor to espouse the cause of English music. Andre Previn proved himself a superb interpreter of Vaughan Williams and Walton, among others of our native composers, and pursued his enthusiasm with the LSO and RPO as well as with American orchestras. Slatkin, however, is proving himself similarly sympathetic and active, and is beginning to impinge on our consciousness both as chief guest conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, with whom he conducted an outstanding Elgar Second Symphony at last year's Proms, and as a long-standing propagandist for English music at home. It was interesting to hear how this

artist of such wide musical culture responded to Joan Bakewell's quizzing in Sunday's potted version of *Artist of the Week* on BBC Radio 3.

Slatkin is not the man to fall back on palliatives, and when given the chance to espouse a politically correct view about the role he might play as a musical educator with his orchestra, Washington's National Symphony, he gave a refreshingly honest answer. Slatkin is very far from being elitist, as his increasingly wide repertoire - symphonic jazz, classics, avant garde, ethnic music - proves. But, asked whether he was aiming to reach out to the ethnically diverse populace of his new city, he admitted that while aiming at accessibility in general, his

main responsibility was to the listener already hooked on classical music, and that such a person is most likely to be white and middle class.

This kind of statement would probably not have endeared him to government funding agencies in our country, yet it cuts across much hypocrisy. Education is not an end in itself; it is a means to a fuller life, and Slatkin sees himself as nourishing that life while leaving the education to others. In our current political climate the process of education seems sometimes to be prized above the creation of art. Speaks of education and funds are released, speak of creating the finest work of which you are capable, and the word "elitist" hovers near.

The Secrets of Orchestration, a mini-series under the larger banner of *Sounding the Century* might have been planned before Roger Wright's arrival as head of Radio 3, but it certainly chimes in with our expectations of more serious and musically worthwhile fare. Saturday's edition had Robin Holloway, himself no mean creator of orchestral magic, talking about Debussy's *La Mer*, and it was fascinating to hear that trail-blazing score taken apart and then reassembled layer by textual layer.

Holloway's fellow presenter Michael Oliver began a little provocatively by alluding to Ravel's criticism of Debussy's orchestration, and Holloway admitted that there are rough

NEW FILMS

AFFLICTION (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Nick Nolte, James Coburn, Sissy Spacek, William Dafoe
See The Independent Recommends, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, *Renoir*

HOLY MAN (PG)

Director: Stephen Herek
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum
Redemption time! Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scuzzball executive on a home-shopping channel. Eddie Murphy is G, a spiritual wanderer with open sandals and an idiot-savant simper. G and Ricky hook up. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses G as a frontman on the shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know, about life and stuff. *Holy Man* is a film of bits and pieces. Parts of it (the satirical swipes at trash TV, for instance) are very funny, while Murphy and the wired, neurotic Goldblum in particular, both do well in fleshing out what are essentially one-dimensional, archetypal roles. The trouble is, the film never quite hangs together. It skips around trying to find the right tone; starts out as an attack on media-hands, then pulls its punches. It runs worryingly out of steam. West End: Odeon, Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

Director: David Kane
Starring: Douglas Henshall, Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Ian Hart, Emily Wool, Catherine McCormack

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Doug Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. The plot is airy and simple: six disparate middle-youth types cross-cross each other over a period of three years; their bungled bed-hopping and snatched moments of human contact scored to a voguish pop soundtrack (Garbage, Moreheads, Mercury Rev). Hart excels as a nerdish outcast, Burke as a nurturing rough-diamond pub singer. All are well-served by Kane's generally witty and well-observed screenplay. It's just that *This Year's Love* doesn't quite know when to quit, cranking what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you. You can't fit it into tidy little boxes. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

This computer-animated trifé is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant Z who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

BULWORTH (18)

Warren Beatty's new satire is a blast: crude and audacious and committed, too. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG)
So how bad is *Don't Go Breaking my Heart*? Well, first off, it wastes the skills of Elton John, Edwards as a Yankee sports therapist in Blighty. Secondly, it overplays the charms of Jenny Seagrove as the widowed mum he gets together with. This arthritic weepie wheezes on towards a finale so predictable that you'd have to be dead not to see it coming. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Paxton Street, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the teeming backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Rizzo, Carrie Mullan) unwillingly in tow. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, *Renoir*, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: Curzon Soho, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the tourist-brocure visuals. With Whoopi Goldberg. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating for its own good. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Virgin Fulham Road.

JACK FROST (PG)

Out-of-season Yuletide tale. Michael Keaton plays a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. *The Full Monty's* Mark Addy co-stars as his best mate. They meet, they pass, and formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whitleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident impersonations of Shirley Bassey and Judy Garland. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push *Little Voice* through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)

Living Out Loud spins a sweet saga of female liberation, bolstered by a terrific performance from Holly Hunter as the lonesome divorcee drifting into an is-it-or-isn't friendship with Danny DeVito's bereaved lift operator. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MADELINE (U)

All aboard for storybook 1950s Paris. That gingerbread house on the corner is the boarding house attended by nine-year-old Madeline (Hatty Jones). That bat-faced woman out front is the strict instructor (Frances McDormand). That car going by is a Citroën. You get the picture. This overcooked rendering of Ludwig Bemelmans' kids' stories looks a shade one-dimensional; all artistry and no art. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas' authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MAYBE (PG)

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a disreputable Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (Gheorghe Muresan) in Romania. Expose size jokes in the middle and glib morals at the end. Local: Harrow Warner Village

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MY GIANT (PG)

Billy Crystal plods his way through Michael "Heathers" Lehmann's Lilliputian comedy about a disreputable Hollywood agent who gets a few life lessons when he runs into a saintly giant (Gheorghe Muresan) in Romania. Expose size jokes in the middle and glib morals at the end. Local: Harrow Warner Village

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue, re-heating its 1961 heart-warmer into a spry caper. Starring Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson. Local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swores into summer streets with Pecker, his fluffy satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artiste by the New York elite. West End: Metro

PIT (PG)

What sustains this film is the pure ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics" is the language of "nature" mantra and lounge too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Paxton Street, Clapham Picture House

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from *In the Company of Men* director Neil LaBute. Your Friends and Neighbors widens its focus a little yet in all other respects this looks like a carbon copy of LaBute's debut. There are the same stage-bound confines, the same structured misanthropy, the same dense weave of dialogue. Two features in and LaBute has chewed this bone to bits already. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's magnificently bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism (*right*) stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).



Life Is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG)

Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of Nazi concentration camp by pretending that the brutal regime is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare In Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature spins another enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dede, who causes all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen

(Duchess Theatre, London)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 7 Aug.

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London)

Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production (*right*) of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun.

Toast

(Royal Court at The Ambassador's)

So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production bakery in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Mar.

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)

An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep. To 4 Mar.

The Tempest

(West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)

Ian McKellen gives a low-key performance as Prospero who presides over an island prison reimagined as a correctional facility. To 27 Feb.

ANTHONY QUINN

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century

(Royal Academy)

He lived until 1926. The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, void and depth. The strange last works of Impressionism. To 18 Apr.

Portraits by Ingres

(National Gallery)

Some of the most intense portraiture ever (right). Women: exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr.

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)

Photograph, 1994-98. Huge, wide-view, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our everyday world. To 7 Mar.

Oppé Watercolour Collection

(Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

Classic and still fresh 18th- and 19th-century British watercolours, including Alexander Coates, John Sell Cotman, Constable, and Francis Towne. To 5 Apr.

Disasters of War

(Wolverhampton Art Gallery)

"I saw this" – three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya, and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar.

TOM LE BROK

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC PANTOMIME STREET

(0870-902 0402) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, Lock, Stock & Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 12.15pm, My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4222) (from 1pm) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, Lock, Stock & Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm, 12.15pm, There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) ♦ Leicester Square, Affection 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm, Love 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.35pm, 10.35pm, Rita 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.35pm, 10.35pm, This Year's Love 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.35pm, 10.35pm, Rita 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.35pm, 10.35pm, Rita 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.35pm, 10.35pm, Rita 1.15pm, 4.35pm,

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) ♦ Harrow on the Hill Fri 7pm *Ham Aske* Hein Koun. £ 8.45pm
Shahid-E-Mohabbat 8.45pm *The Soldier* (Asian Film) 1.30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow on the Hill Antz 1.1am A Bug's Life 10.45am, 11.10am, 1.15pm, 4.10pm, 5.35pm, 7.10pm, 8pm, 8.45pm, 9pm, 9.45pm
Enemy of the State 9.15pm, 11.50pm, 12.10pm, 2.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm
How Stella Got Her Groove Back 7.10pm Jack Frost 8.50am, 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm Little Voice 2pm (inc Fnl, 3.25pm, 7.50pm Madeline 9.35am, 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm My Giant 10.20am The Parent Trap 10.50am, 1.35pm Practical Magic 4.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.55pm Stepmom 6.30pm, 9pm This Year's Love 11.05am, 1.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm Very Bad Things 9.50pm, 12midnight

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Archway A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 1.05pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 3.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 5.35pm, 5.40pm, 7.20pm, 7.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.05pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Holy Man 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6.45pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Stepmom 9.35pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill A Bug's Life 11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 3.20pm, 8.45pm Madeline 11.55am, 2.05pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Stepmom 12.40pm, 2.55pm This Year's Love 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

KILBURN
KILBURN TRICENTRE (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn Hideous Kinky 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR, Kingston A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jack Frost 1.30pm, 3.55pm Little Voice 6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm, 9.15pm This Year's Love 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL

ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

Madeline 12.05pm Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

PECKHAM

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR; Peckham Rye Antz 11.50am A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 1.50pm, 7.25pm Enemy of the State 9.10pm, 11.40pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 9.35pm Madeline 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR; Purley A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Jack Frost 1.10pm, 3.15pm Shakespeare in Love 5.40pm, 8.10pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm, 10pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 9.10pm This Year's Love 3.30pm, 4.10pm, 5.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705 050007) BR; Richmond A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Madeline 1pm, 3.20pm Stepmom 1pm, 8.50pm Friends and Neighbors 9.40pm

SLOUGH

ABC (0870-9020411) BR; Slough A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

STAPLES CORNER

VERGIL (0870-9020471) BR; Cricklewood A Bug's Life 12noon, 1pm, 3pm, 5.30pm Enemy of the State 4.30pm, 12midnight How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Madeline 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020405) BR; Streatham I'll Don't Go Breaking My Heart, 1.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) CR; Richmond Don't Go Breaking My Heart 3.00pm, 4pm, 7pm Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm Holy Man 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Madeline 1pm, 3.20pm Stepmom 1pm, 8.50pm Friends and Neighbors 9.40pm

SWINDON

ABC (0870-9020411) BR; Swindon A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

TARLTON

ODEON (08705 050007) CR; Tarlton I'll Don't Go Breaking My Heart, 1.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

THAMES

ABC (0870-9020405) BR; Thames I'll Don't Go Breaking My Heart, 1.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR; Thames I'll Don't Go Breaking My Heart, 1.50pm, 9pm Jack Frost 2.10pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END
ALMEIDA THEATRE Certain Young Men Peter Gill's comedy of contemporary manners looks at the sexuality and the modern man. Mon 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Dobermann [18] 6.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm

IPSWICH

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) The Prince of Egypt (U) 2.30pm The American Friend (PG) 6.15pm Little Women (PG) 7.10pm Holes (PG) 7.10pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 7.30pm Dobermann [18] 8.15pm

LEICESTER

PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854) The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (15) 10pm

NORWICH

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Antz (PG) 2.30pm Les Misérables (12) 5.30pm, 8.15pm Psycho (15) 11.15pm

PLYMOUTH

ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) If Only (15) 6pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (090 888990) ♦ Surrey Quays Antz 12.30pm, 2.40pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.20pm, 5.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 11pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 5pm, 10pm, 12.10pm Enemy of the State 9pm, 11.40pm Holes (PG) 6pm, 8.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 8.40pm, 11.20pm Jack Frost 11.15am, 1pm, 4pm Little Voice 6.55pm Madeline 11am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm The Opposite of Sex 9.10pm, 11.30pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45pm, 12.15pm, 2pm, 4pm Hilary and Jackie 8.40pm Jack Frost 2.15pm, 3.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.25pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm

TURPIN LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ♦ Turpin Lane A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Madeline 1.45pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-9020424) ♦ Walthamstow Central A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 1.05pm, 3pm, 3.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 7.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.05pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6.45pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Stepmom 9.35pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● Seats at all prices ■ Seats at some prices ○ Returns only Matinees — [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

■ ALARMS AND EXCUSIONS

Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£15. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£15. mins.

■ BENT Musical inspired by Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. Set in modern day New York. Shafrazi Shafrazi Avenue, WC1 (0700-211221) Holborn/Tot: Crt Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. mins.

■ ANNA'S DADDY David Suchet stars as Seller to Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 761 6/22 400 000) BR/W Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. mins.

■ ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

JOLIVER Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep, tonight 7.15pm. Wembly Arena, London (0181-902 8833) 13 Jul.

■ OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy versus farm musical Laramie, Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-506 446/22 606 6446) ♦ Casting X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

■ O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Hammerstein, SW1 (0171-844 5400/22 344 4444) ♦ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. mins.

■ PRENT Musical inspired by Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. Set in modern day New York. Shafrazi Shafrazi Avenue, WC1 (0700-211221) Holborn/Tot: Crt Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. mins.

■ TURPINE LANE

A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Madeline 1.45pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm

■ WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-9020424) ♦ Walthamstow Central A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 1.05pm, 3pm, 3.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 7.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.05pm Don't Go Breaking My Heart 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6.45pm, 8.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Stepmom 9.35pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm

■ THEATRE

ANNE'S RAG to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/W Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. mins.

■ LYTTELTON: The Forest Alan Ayckbourn's new version of Ostrydov's black social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep, tonight 7.30pm.

■ MINTON: The Black Cat

CHARLES DICKENS' classic tale of poverty and hardship, set in Victorian London. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. mins.

■ MINTON: The Merchant of Venice

Shakespeare's drama of usury and greed, set in Elizabethan London. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. mins.

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■ MINTON: The Merchant of Venice

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FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz FM
6.00 Zoe Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier.
12.04 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules.
11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2

(88.9-92.2MHz FM)

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

12.04 Richard Littlejohn. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam: Guests, sports news and music. 7.00 Morley at the Musicals. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night introduced by Richard Baker from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Roderick Dunk conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, led by Marin Lovelady, with guest artists Adrien Martin, Alison Buchanan and Kit and the Widow. 9.30 Frankenstein. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs.

11.00 Believe It or Not. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Late Shamus.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvorak. Susan Sharron concludes her exploration of Dvorak's self-proclaimed 'Simple Czech' music by reflecting on how Dvorak reinvented Czech music in his own image. Music includes a Slavonic dance, the 'Dumky' piano trio, and the song of a bardic hero in his final symphonic poem: a self-portrait?

1.00 The Radio 3 Luncheon Concert. A clarinet and piano recital given in Belfast's Waterfront Hall by Roman Guyot, principal clarinet with the Paris Opera Orchestra, and Philippe Cassard, winner of the Dublin GPA International Piano Competition. Merlini: Sonatina; Schubert: Arioso; Arpeggione Sonata; Brahms: Fantasiestücke, Op 73; Poulenc: Clarinet Sonata(R).

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Music Festured.

4.45 Music Machine. (R)

5.00 In Tune. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. A from last year's 1998 Edinburgh International Festival celebrating the music of Sir

PICK OF THE DAY

IT'S NOT CLEAR why it was felt necessary to liven up Flora Thompson's auto-biographical account of village life in late 19th-century Oxfordshire with 1990s footblathering. Despite the intrusions, there is still much to enjoy in the second instalment of the Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4). *Lark Rise and Beyond*, which stars Maggie Steed (right) as the reminiscing Laura.



DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Donald Francis Tovey, one of Britain's finest writers on music, whose own richly romantic compositions are much less well known than his famous 'Essays in Musical Analysis'. BBC Scottish SO/Martyn, Mats Lidstrom (cello), Richard Goode and András Schiff (piano duet); Steven Osborne (piano); Tovey: Cello Concerto; Balliol Dances; Piano Concerto.

9.35 Postscript. Peggy Reynolds unravels the dramatic, musical and emotional impact of a favourite operatic aria. Francesca Zambello, Dame Gwyneth Jones, Jane Eaglen and Dennis Norden explore 'In questa reggia' from Puccini's opera 'Turandot', in which the Turandot reveals the atrocities suffered by her ancestor which led her to execute an endless stream of suitors.

10.00 Head and Now. In a concert given on Monday in Broadcasting House, London, Stefan Asbury conducts Ensemble Corrente in a programme of music by Western composers looking east, and composers from the Far East looking west. Michael Finnissey: Catane; Ong-gang Chen: Voyage d'un rêve. Glazunov: Saisie; Kya: Ursuk Chin; Akrostichon-Wortspiel.

11.30 Jazz Century.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Teleman. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.2-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Planet of the Blind.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Cruffed.

11.30 Sun Side Up.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Picture Panel.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.35 Afternoon Play: *Lark Rise and Beyond*. See Pick of the Day.

3.00 NEWS: Changing Places.

3.30 Science in the Attic.

3.45 This Scattered Isle.

4.00 NEWS: Writers' Masterclass.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Sunday Format. See Pick of the Day.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme, including a look at the troubled life of composer Frederick Delius.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Rachel Atkins, Ian Pepperell, Kelly Hunter and Sean Baker. Directed by Peter Leslie Will (5/60).

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?

9.00 NEWS: Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss the week's sporting agenda.

9.30 Front Page Sport.

12.30 The Late Book: All Points North.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.

12.00 - 12.44 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(63.9-90.9kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

ca. This peculiar instrument linked the lives of three famous men. With Adam Godley, Nicholas Farrell, Jon Strickland and Tracey Wiles. Director Claire Grove. McLeod and Dawn McCormick. Written and directed by Jeremy Weale.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain. Patrick Malahide reads Patrick O'Brien's novel following the fortunes of Captain Jack Aubrey and his friend Dr Stephen Maturin in the Royal Navy of Nelson's time. Jack is given command of a secret weapon (5/10).

11.00 NEWS: Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss the week's sporting agenda.

11.30 Front Page Sport.

12.30 News.

12.30 The Late Book: All Points North.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.

12.00 - 12.44 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(63.9-90.9kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscon and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Brian Moore's Sportsnight. Brian Moore sits in for Alan Green again to look back on the week's sporting stories and preview the weekend's action with his studio guests.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Parliament. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.

12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight.

9.00 Evening Concert: Holst: St Paul's Suite. City of London Sinfonia/Richard Hickox. Delius: Two Pieces for cello and chamber orchestra. Julian Lloyd Webber, Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Neville Marriner. Delius: Violin Concerto. Iain Little Welsh National Opera Orchestra/Charles Mackerras. Holst: The Planets. Philharmonic Orchestra, Ambrosian Singers/Simon Rattle.

1.00 Michael Marpon. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Many Great Griffins.

VIRGIN RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Late Night Live. Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss the week's sporting agenda.

11.30 Front Page Sport.

12.30 News.

12.30 The Late Book: All Points North.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Books).

2.00 The World Today.

2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup.

3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 The World Today.

5.30 - 6.00 My Century.

TALK RADIO

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrari.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 OK to Talk. 5.00 The SportZone. 8.00 Jackie Mason - Live from New York. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-in with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

5.00 Steve Power.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Books).

2.00 The World Today.

2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup.

3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 The World Today.

